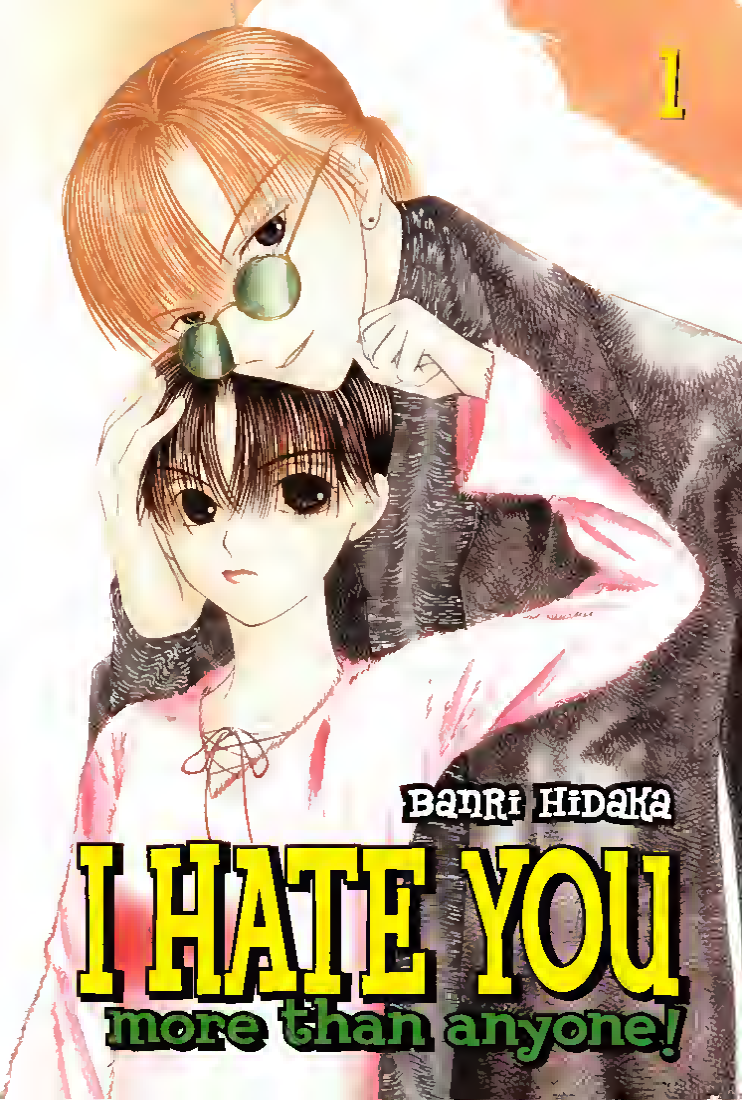
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Banri Hidaka
I HATE YOU
more than anyone!

I HATE YOU more than anyone!

Volume 1

By Banri Hidaka

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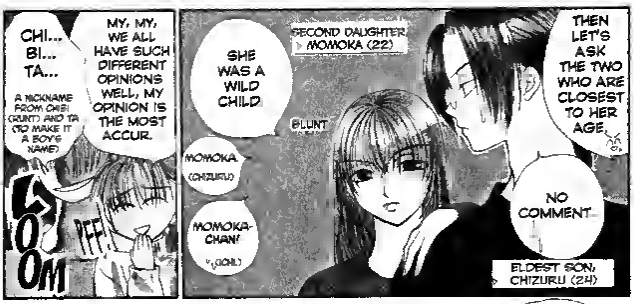
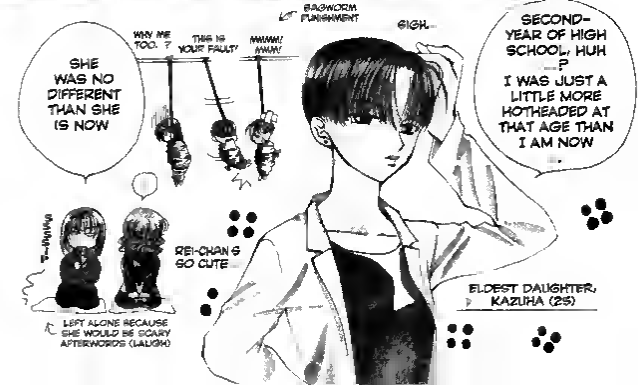
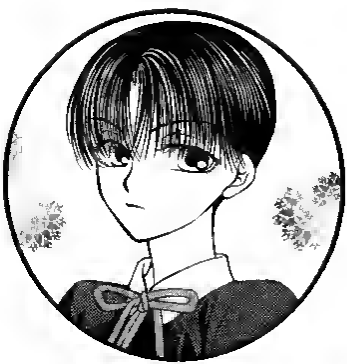
ELEVEN YEARS IS A BIG AGE DIFFERENCE BUT THEY LOOK EXACTLY ALIKE
SHE'S BEEN MARRIED AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER, SO I DON'T REALLY KNOW.
EH? SHE WAS NICE TO ME!
SECOND SON, ICHIHISA (2ND YEAR HIGH SCHOOL)
I HAVE A QUESTION. WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS THE ELDEST GIRL, KAZUHA-CHAN?
THIRD SON, REI (3RD YEAR, MIDDLE SCHOOL)
THIRD DAUGHTER, TONAMI (1ST YEAR, JUNIOR COLLEGE)
INCIDENTALLY, I THINK SHE'S THE DEVIL HERSELF.
'CAUSE OUR AGES ARE SO FAR APART.
(ICHIHISA)
WELCOME TO THE AKIYOSHI FAMILY 4, BY RANKI HIDAKA


CHI... BI... TA...
A NICKNAME FROM CHIBI (RUNT) AND TA (TO MAKE IT A BOY'S NAME)
MY, MY, WE ALL HAVE SUCH DIFFERENT OPINIONS WELL, MY OPINION IS THE MOST ACCUR.
BOOM
PFF!
SECOND DAUGHTER, MOMOKA (22)
SHE WAS A WILD CHILD
BLUNT
MOMOKA (CHIZURU)
MOMOKA-CHAN! (GOH)
THEN LET'S ASK THE TWO WHO ARE CLOSEST TO HER AGE.
NO COMMENT
ELDEST SON, CHIZURU (24)


BAGWORM PUNISHMENT
SIGH...
SECOND-YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL, HUH...? I WAS JUST A LITTLE MORE HOTHEADED AT THAT AGE THAN I AM NOW...
WHY ME TOO...?
THIS IS YOUR FAULT
MMMM! MMM!
SHE WAS NO DIFFERENT THAN SHE IS NOW
MMMMM...
REI-CHAN'S SO CUTE
LEFT ALONE BECAUSE SHE WOULD BE SCARY AFTERWORDS (LAUGH)
ELDEST DAUGHTER, KAZUHA (25)

世界(せかい)で
いちばん大嫌(だいきら)い
I HATE YOU
more than anyone!

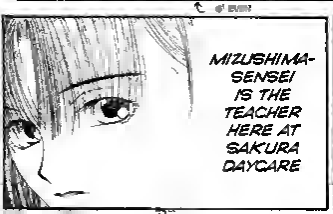


DA DA
GAAAAAAH! HOMEROOM IS TOO LONG!
IT'S TUESDAY
DA DA DAH
'BYE AKI-YOSH! !!
SHE SURE IS ENERGETIC TODAY
AH.
GOOD-BYE, SEM-PAI.
SHE IS FAST!
GOODBYE, AKIYOSHI-SEMPAI!
KYAAH! I TALKED TO HER!
YEAH, SEE YA!
...THE DAY WHICH I CAN'T WAIT FOR CLASSES TO END..
DA DA DA DA
AND I FEEL MORE EXCITED AND NERVOUS THAN USUAL
DAH
KAZUHA! I FEEL LIKE IT'S POINTLESS TO EVEN ASK...
...BUT ARE YOU FREE TODAY?
IT'S A SPECIAL DAY...
SORRY!

..THE ONE DAY I CAN SEE HIM.
I'M GOING TO PICK MY LITTLE BROTHER UP FROM PRESCHOOL !!
WOW, SHE MUST REALLY LOVE HER BROTHER.
HE'S A LOT YOUNGER THAN HER, ISN'T HE?
MORON, SHE WOULDN'T GET THAT EXCITED OVER THAT.
SHE HAS HER SIGHTS ON SOMEONE.
SAKURA DAYCARE
REI, A SENIOR STUDENT, AGE 5
AGARA
REI! SORRY I'M LATE!
KAZUHA-CHAN!

GLANCE
AT FIRST I HATED IT BECAUSE IT WAS SUCH A PAIN
...
KAZUHA, THIRD YEAR IN MIDDLE SCHOOL
YOU ARE SO LAID-BACK
GLINT
I HAVEN'T SAID I'D DO IT YET.
BUT ON OTHER DAYS, MAMA RELIES ON HOMO OR TONAN.
IT REALLY HELPS YOUR MOTHER OUT FOR YOU TO BE SUCH A RELIABLE BIG SISTER
PLAYING WITH HIM WITH HER FOOT.
WERE YOU A GOOD BOY?
YUP!
UKYAAA!
IT'S BEEN THE CUSTOM, THESE TWO SHORT YEARS,
FOR ME TO COME IN PLACE OF OUR MOTHER, WHO'S BUSY WITH WORK
CLEAN UP YOUR TOYS!
OH, SORRY LET'S GO HOME
KAZU-HA-CHAN?
HELLO, KAZUHA-CHAN
MIZUSHIMA-SENSEI.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK, COMING EVERY WEEK

THERE ARE LOTS OF RUMORS, YOUR FAMILY SOUNDS LIKE A LOT OF FUN.
IT'S NICE THAT EVERYONE IN YOUR FAMILY GETS ALONG SO WELL, AKIYOSHI-SAN.
AH HA HA. DON'T BE SO FORMAL.
THE OTHER DAY, ICHIHISA-KUN AND TONAMI-CHAN CAME TO PICK UP YOUR BROTHER, AND ICHIHISA TOLD ME A LOT ABOUT EVERYONE.
BOW
N-NO, THANK YOU. FOR TAKING SUCH GOOD CARE OF OUR LITTLE ONE.
UHHHH, UHHHH!
REI'S DOWN HERE.


MIZUSHIMA-SENSEI IS THE TEACHER HERE AT SAKURA DAYCARE

WHEN I GET HOME, ICHIHISA, DEATH!
KICK KICK KICK KICK
REI-KUN, AREN'T YOU GLAD YOUR SISTER CAME TO PICK YOU UP?
YUP!
HAPPY HAPPY

I KEEP COMING HERE BECAUSE OF THIS PERSON.
I REALLY, REALLY LOVE HIM.

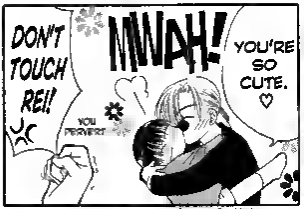
SINCE THAT DAY, TWO YEARS GO ...
...THIS KIND, WARM PERSON HAS ALWAYS BEEN ON MY MIND.

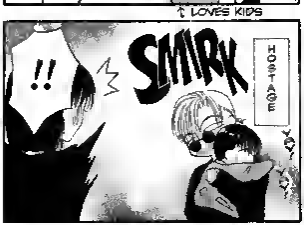
PEERING IN
YOUR FACE IS RED. ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
DO YOU HAVE A COLD?
KAZUHA-CHAN?
EH?
BUT AUGH! I GET EMBARRASSED SAYING IT, DAMMIT.
DOH
"SOUND OF HER HEARTBEAT"
DOH
DOH
DOH
DOH
?
RETREAT!
AAAAAGHH! YOU'RE GORGEOUS, MIZUSHIMA-SENSEI!!
HE'S SO CUTE I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S 24!!
WHAT IS SHE SAYING?
KAZUHA CHAN
GAH!!!
GAH?
AH?
SAWADA DAYCARE
TOO PAINFUL FOR WORDS.
.....
...!
KA-ZUHA-CHAN! ARE YOU OKAY?! CAN YOU STAND ?!
STUMP

IT MIGHT HAVE SPLIT YOUR TOENAIL OR SOMETHING...
BUT
I AM PERFECTLY ALRIGHT!!
CAPTAIN
IT'S FINE! I'M FINE!
STAND
LET ME SEE YOUR FOOT.
SHE'S IN THE MILITARY?
EH?!
UH. UM
UNE
BUT I'LL GO GET THE FIRST AID KIT, JUST IN CASE.
WAIT HERE
WORRIER
SQUEEZE
HEHEH BUT I FEEL LIKE SOMETHING GOOD CAME OUT OF IT...
THERE!
KYA HA HA HA
...SINCE I GOT HIM TO WORRY ABOUT ME
I'M SO STUBBORN
I HATE THIS PERSONALITY THAT CAN'T RELY ON OTHERS' HELP
A RARE CHANCE TO LET HIM TOUCH ME!
WHERE DID SENSEI GO?
?
DON'T YOU THINK OF ANYTHING ELSE?
I
TH... THANK YOU VERY...
I LET IT GET AWAY AGAIN
MUCH

BUT IF I CAN TELL HIM HOW I FEEL SOMEDAY ...
SEVEN YEARS IS A BIG AGE DIFFERENCE
MY DEAR, SWEET KAZUHA-CHAAAN ♡...
YOUR HAIR IS AS LOVELY AS USUAL TODAY. ♡
CHILL
... DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN KEEP SHOWING UP EVERY SINGLE TIME I COME HERE!
SUGI-MOTO!! LOOK, JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE SENSEI'S FRIEND ...
GOOD-NESS, YOU MAKE ME SOUND SO TER-RIBLE.
!!
GRAB
OH, MY! ♡
DON'T TOUCH PEOPLE'S HAIR, PEST !!
WHOOM

NOBODY ASKED YOU TO!!
USE YOUR DAYS OFF TO STAY HOME AND SLEEP
MMM! YOU ARE TERRIBLE.
AND HERE I GO TO THE TROUBLE OF USING UP ALL MY REGULAR DAYS OFF FROM THE SALON TO COME SEE YOU, KAZUHA-CHAN
YOU'RE SO COLD.
AH HA HA.
YOU REALLY LIKE KAZUHA-CHAN'S HAIR, DON'T YOU, MAKI?
OH! IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR FOOT IS FINE!
SEN-SEI
I WONDER IF YOU WOULD LET ME CUT IT, JUST ONCE
SIGH, I'M IN LOVE.
OH, IT MAKES ME GIDDY, I WANT STYLE IT, TOO
DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT!
THAT'S RIGHT, MIZUSHIMA ♡
ITS SHEEN, IT'S TEXTURE, AND ITS SO WONDERFULLY STRAIGHT
OH, REI-CHAN ♡
GLOMP
MAKI-CHAAAAN!
YOU'RE RIGHT I DO REGRET IT SOME-TIMES.
SENSEI, YOU SHOULD CHOOSE YOUR FRIENDS MORE CARE-FULLY.
COME ON, YOU TWO!


DON'T TOUCH REI!
YOU PERVERT
NWAH!
YOU'RE SO CUTE. ♡


LOVES KIDS
!!
SMIRK
HOSTAGE
YOY

SAY, REI-CHAN, WOULD IT BE ALL RIGHT IF YOU CAME HOME WITH ME?
YEAH!
LOVE
LOVE
POKE
GEH!

CHUCKLE
YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL WHEN YOU'RE SULKING, KAZUHA-CHAN!

YOU CAN'T JUST DECIDE YOU'RE TAKING US!
THAT'S KIDNAP-PING!
DRAG DRAG DRAG DRAG DRAG
WELL THEN, MIZU-SHIMA-CHAN, TOODLES!
THEY GET ALONG SO WELL.

SILK
SHUT UP.
THANKS TO YOU, I'LL BE BLUE FOR ANOTHER WEEK.
SOCHIRO!
I CAN'T STAND SUGIMOTO.
I DON'T CARE IF HE'S A HAIRDRESSER OR WHAT
OBSESSING OVER PEOPLE'S HAIR IS WEIRD
OH, YOU KNOW YOU'RE HAPPY TO SEE ME.
YOU DON'T GET THAT I HATE YOU, DO YOU?!
OH REALLY?
HE'S STRANGE AND MYSTERIOUS. I CAN'T STAND HIM.
THOSE EYES, AS IF HE'S LOOKING THROUGH YOU.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU SEE IN HIM
PFF.
GRR!
HE'S THOUSANDS OF TIMES BETTER THAN YOU!!

HEL-LO! I'M SANRI HIDAKA. THANK YOU FOR WAITING. THIS IS THE AKIYOSHI FAMILY SERIES. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR PICKING UP MY SIXTH HANA TO YUME COMIC, *I HATE YOU MORE THAN ANYONE #1!* KYAAAAAAH! IT'S MY FIRST COMIC WITH A VOLUME NUMBER. I'M SO HAPPY. I'M REALLY, REALLY HAPPY BUT THAT'S SOME TITLE. EH HEH HEH. NOW THEN, I WONDER HOW MANY VOLUMES IT WILL GO ON TO. AND SO, THIS TIME THE MAIN CHARACTER IS THE AKIYOSHI FAMILY'S OLDEST GIRL, KAZUHA. PLEASE ENJOY HER STORY AT YOUR LEISURE. *I HATE YOU MORE THAN ANYONE*

AS A FINISHING TOUCH, THEY USED WAX TO GIVE IT A NATURALLY GLOSSY FEELING.

THIS TIME I GOT A PERM! MY HAIR HAS TONS MORE VOLUME

ME IN A SMACK WITH BLACK EYES.

NOW, THIS TIME I HAVE A SPECIAL PROJECT (?)

THE PUBLIC HUMILIATION SPECIAL
"MASURI-CHAN, BY SUNACHO"

TADAH!

FROM A FAN

DRAWN LATE AT NIGHT

TODAY YOU LOOK EXACTLY AL IKE

EXPLANATION AT A GLANCE: IT LOOKS LIKE A FALLEN YANKEE WITH HIS TOP KNOT CUT OFF. BUT LOOK CAREFULLY. NOT ONLY DOES IT HAVE WINGS. BUT IT'S GOT A CROWN THAT LOOKS LIKE IT WAS DRAWN IN TWO SECONDS STUCK TO ITS HEAD RATHER THAN WEARING THE CROWN. SAD TO SAY, IT'S STUCK THERE. LIKE SOMEONE STUCK IT THERE ON A WHIM. IT'S NO LONGER HUMAN. IT WOULD BE ABSURD TO CALL IT HUMAN. APPARENTLY THIS IS WHAT SHE TH NKE N NYAKA LOOKS LIKE. IT'S MORTIFYING BUT IT LOOKS SO MUCH LIKE ME, I CAN'T COMPLA N. AND SO, PUTTING THE DRAWING HERE IS MY REVENGE (LAUGH) ... BUT MAYBE I'M THE ONE BEING HUMILIATED?!?

KUH KEH KEH KEH KEH KEH KEH KEH KEH KEH KEH

I SAAAAW YOOOO OOUUU ...

HE'S A DIFFERENT KIND OF OLDER GUY.

NOT LIKE MIZU-SHIMA-SENSEI.

2-B

SENKO.

SENKO MATSUOKA, AGE 17. SHE'S MATSUOKA'S OLDER SISTER. UNLIKE HER BROTHER, SHE A LITTLE (A LOT) MORE HOT-BLOODED

GAH

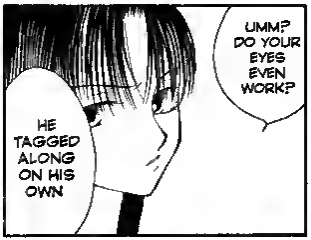
DON'T JUMP INTO PEOPLE'S LINE OF VISION LIKE THAT!

YOU!

YOU WERE WITH MY SUGIMOTO-SAMA AGAIN YESTERDAY, WEREN'T YOU?!

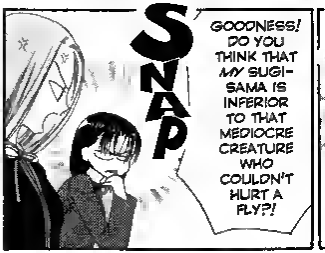
GRRR! YOU'VE ALREADY DONE IT, KAZUHA! YOU'RE SO FULL OF YOURSELF!

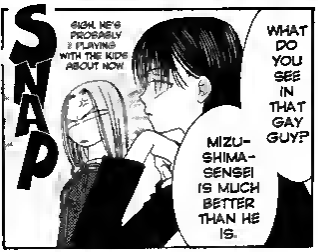
SENKO'S SUPER MIRACLE PUNCH!!
DROP DEAD ALREADY
BUT I HAVE BIGGER BREASTS THAN YOU!
MY GOODNESS! SO YOU ARE BRAGGING ABOUT IT ?!
I HATE, HATE YOU !!
AUG!


UMM? DO YOUR EYES EVEN WORK?
HE TAGGED ALONG ON HIS OWN

↑ NOTE KAZUKA

EVER SINCE I FOUND YOU AT LAST YEAR'S CULTURE FESTIVAL, I HAVE FALLEN DEEPLY AND MADLY IN LOVE WITH YOU!
EH HEH HEH, MY MISCHEVIOUS ANGEL.
OH, MY BEAUTIFUL SUGI-SAMA .
HIS ♡ NOBLE FACE, LOOKING SO DIFFERENT FROM MOST JAPANESE, HIS MAGNIFICENT, BALANCED PROPORTIONS
IMAGE FROM YESTER-DAY.
THAT'S WHEN MY LUCK RAN OUT.
GOOD GRIEF
SO YOU DON'T CARE THAT HE TALKS LIKE A GIRL.


SNAP
GOODNESS! DO YOU THINK THAT MY SUGI-SAMA IS INFERIOR TO THAT MEDIOCRE CREATURE WHO COULDN'T HURT A FLY?!


SNAP
SIGH, HE'S PROBABLY PLAYING WITH THE KIDS ABOUT NOW
WHAT DO YOU SEE IN THAT GAY GUY?
MIZU-SHIMA-SENSEI IS MUCH BETTER THAN HE IS.

JOLT
YOU WANT A PIECE OF ME ?!
GA TAN!
WHAT ?!!
THE MIDDLE OF CLASS.
DING DONG
EXTRA HOMEWORK.
CALM DOWN, SHINO.
MATH
DING DONG
REALLY
I'M AMAZED YOU CAN FIGHT SO MUCH ABOUT THE SAME THING ALL THE TIME
IT'S FUN TO WATCH, SO I DON'T MIND, BUT
I CAN'T HELP IT SHE KEEPS STARTING IT.
AND YOU KEEP IT UP.
THEY SAY THE MORE PEOPLE FIGHT
SIGH. SO STUPID
CAN'T THEY GET ALONG?

ANYWAY, I CAN'T LET HER MAKE FUN OF SENSEI
THAT'S A SICK-NESS OF YOURS
WELL WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT?
HE'S A GOD
A GOD ?!
YES. A GOD.

THE FIRST PERSON TO TREAT ME LIKE A GIRL.
HA! A SHORT-CUT!
THIS IS THE FIRST FLOOR
OOF
KAZU-HA ?!
EH ?!
KYAA!
FLINCH
DAMMIT, DON'T ASK ME TO PICK UP RE: ON DAYS I HAVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS!
YOU'RE NOT A BOY! ISN'T THAT DANGER-OUS ?!
WHAT IF YOU FELL?!
OY
YEAH. YEAH. YEAH.
OW
← SHE FELL.

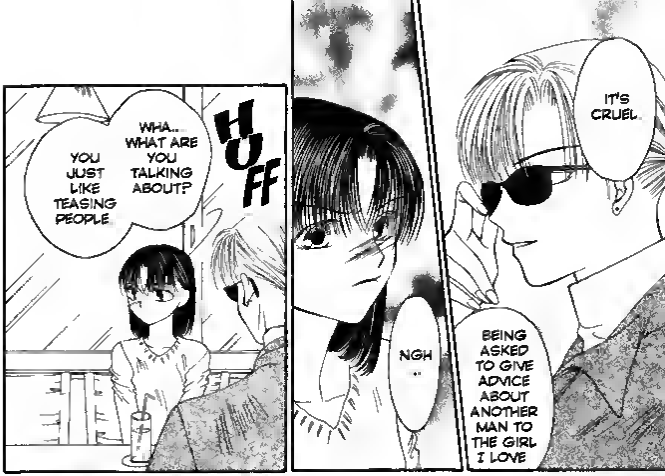
SO CUTE, SO CUTE.
SHE'S SO SMALL YOU WANT TO PROTECT HER-- THAT KIND OF GIRL.
NOW THERE IS A GIRL.
NEXT SUNDAY IS MY FIRST DATE.
WHAT, DO YOU HAVE A COLD?
ACHOO!
DON'T KNOW, BUT I CAN'T CATCH COLD.
HUH?
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I HATE HAVING THIS HEIGHT AND PERSONALITY.
EXCUSE ME, I'M AKIYOSHI
I'VE COME TO GET MY LITTLE BROTHER.
SAKURA DAYCARE
WRAP
KAZU --
YOU HAVE TO STOP A COLD WHEN YOU FIRST START TO CATCH IT.
!
THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF ME.
GRAB
BEAM
THANK YOU.

PLEASED TO MEET YOU. I'M MIZUSHIMA.
REI-KUN LOOKS JUST LIKE YOU
AH... THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS TAKING CARE OF REI...
IT'S THE DAYCARE TEACHER. HE'S TALL
YOU'RE REI-KUN'S SISTER?
REI, WE'RE GOING HOME
KAZUHA-CHAAA!
POING
AT THE TIME, 5'9"
LET'S SEE ...
HE'S PRETTY EASY-GOING ...
GATA
SENSEI!
OH, REI-KUN.
GATA
AL-RIGHT! COME WITH ME
EH?!
COME ON, COME ON
IT'S GOING AROUND WITH THE KIDS, TOO
A COLD?!
NO, IT'S NOTHING SO MAJOR
AHCHOO!
@@@

HERE, TAKE THESE
YOUR HANDS ARE COLD, AREN'T THEY?
THESE ARE ALL I HAVE.
BUT YOU'RE A GIRL, SO YOU SHOULDN'T LET YOURSELF GET COLD, YOU KNOW?
THUMP
OKAY.
WELL, THAT'S REALLY ALL IT WAS.
I WAS TOUCHED
BUT IT MADE ME REALLY HAPPY
AND I GOT TO KEEP THE GLOVES HE SAID HE'D JUST BOUGHT NEW ONES
HMMM.

BLOODY TEARS
YOU ARE IN-
HUMAN
DHAA AAH!
YOU MUST HAVE SOLD YOUR SOUL TO THE DEVIL TO BE BRINGING THAT NAME UP NOW !!
HEH HEH HEH
NOW, NOW DO THE BEST YOU CAN, KAZUHA
WHAT, ASAKO?
IS THAT ALL?? YOU CALLED HIM A GOD...
WHAT? I WAS JUST THINKING THAT SUGIMOTO-SAN SEEMS MORE FITTING FOR YOU THAN THAT TEACHER.
SO HERE I THOUGHT HE WAS THIS AMAZING GUY WHO COULD SHOOT LASERS FROM HIS EYES AND BE ON A TV SHOW OR SOMETHING
NO LASERS
KAZUHA ?
I...I'M NOT USED TO THIS KIND OF THING
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I SHOULD DO
THAT IS... I'M CONFUSED
SO NOW TWO YEARS HAVE GONE BY ...
... YOU HANDLE OTHER SITUATIONS SO WELL, AND YOU'RE SO WITH IT AND COOL.
PAT
BUT WHEN IT COMES TO YOURSELF, YOU HAVE NO CLUE.
AH, YOU'RE SO AWKWARD.
SHUT UP.
BESIDES ... YOU KNOW? I THINK SEVEN YEARS REALLY IS A BIG DIFFERENCE
A GUY LIVING IN THE REAL WORLD AND A STUDENT LITTLE BY LITTLE, THE WAY WE SEE THINGS AND THINK ABOUT THINGS WOULD BE DIFFERENT, I'M SURE
SOMEHOW MY FEELINGS ARE RUNNING AROUND ON THEIR OWN, AND MY ACTIONS CAN'T KEEP UP

WOULDN'T AN ADULT MAN BE ABLE TO GIVE YOU AT LEAST ONE OPINION THAT COULD HELP?
AN ADULT MAN...
TO BE FRANK, I DON'T UNDERSTAND MEN'S FEELINGS.
BUT.
CLINK
SO?
I WONDERED WHY YOU CALLED ME SO SUDDENLY
JINGLE
WELCOME!
YOU... YOU GOT A PROBLEM?
YOU WANT ADVICE ABOUT LOVE?
NO PROBLEM
I'M HAPPY THAT YOU WOULD COME TO ME BUT...


IT'S CRUEL
BEING ASKED TO GIVE ADVICE ABOUT ANOTHER MAN TO THE GIRL I LOVE
NGH ..
HUFF
WHA... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU JUST LIKE TEASING PEOPLE

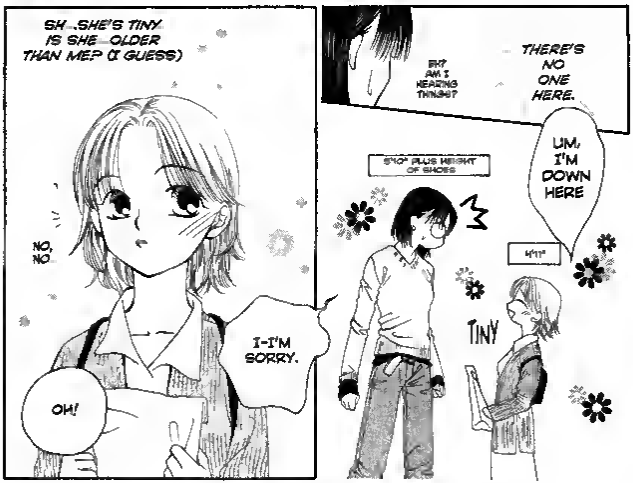
CHUCKLE.
WHAT IF I SAID I WAS SERIOUS?
THUMP
SUCH NICE EYES
IF YOU LET ME SPEAK HONESTLY ...

HIS EYES ARE SAYING ...
YOU JUST WANTED SOMETHING YOU COULD RELY ON, DIDN'T YOU?
YOU ARE WRONG!
I'M NOT WRONG
I'M AFRAID OF HIS EYES.
IT'S LIKE THEY'RE SEEING THROUGH ME TO SOMETHING I HAVEN'T REALIZED ABOUT MYSELF
... YOUR FEELINGS AREN'T LOVE, KAZUHA-CHAN
THEY'RE MERELY ADMIR-ATION
BLUSH
SLAP
"YOU ARE JUST A KID."

THAT'S WHY YOU'LL ALWAYS BE KAZUHA-CHAN.
SAD
I SHOULD NEVER HAVE COME TO YOU FOR ADVICE.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
—TO SEE SEN-SEI!
EH?

THAT PUNK, THAT PUNK, THAT PUNK, THAT PUNK.
I WAS HELPING HER GROW
SHE'LL MAKE A FINE WOMAN
I HATE HIM!!
YOU SHOULD NOT BE SO MEAN TO GIRLS, SUGIMOTO-SAN
OH, NO.
I WASN'T BEING MEAN TO HER.
I WANT TO SEE SENSEI.
IF I SEE HIM NOW, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO TELL HIM ...
...HOW I FELT THESE TWO YEARS.
SAKURA DAYCARE

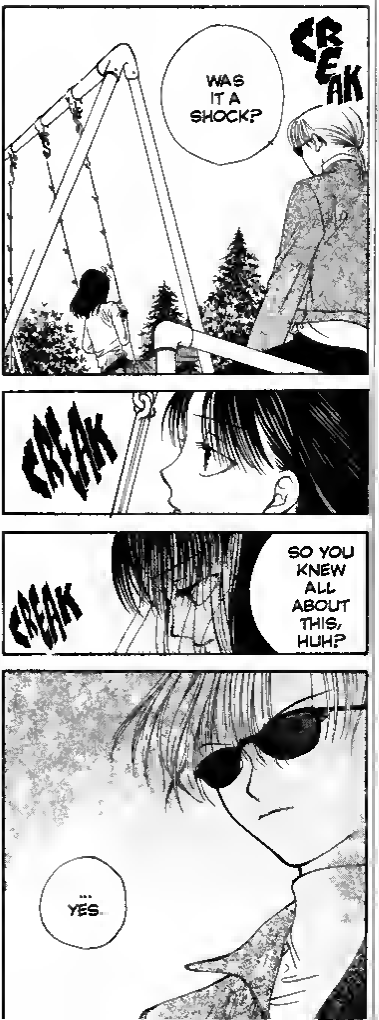
AH HA HA HA HA
DESPERATE
RAAAH! IN A CASE LIKE THIS, A WOMAN NEEDS GUTS!!
GUTS, GUTS, GUTS! GO GIRL!
UM, EXCUSE ME WILL YOU LET ME THROUGH?
MAYBE I'LL COME AGAIN LATER
KLATCH
THUMP THUMP
ANYWAY
THUMP
IT'S ONE THING TO GET WORKED UP AND COME HERE, BUT!
HOW DO I START TO TELL HIM?!
IN FRONT OF THE DAYCARE GATE
HE WAS SAYING DAYCARE TEACHERS WORK LATE
SENSEI'S STILL THERE, RIGHT?
SNEAK


SH..SHE'S TINY IS SHE OLDER THAN ME? (I GUESS)
NO, NO
I-I'M SORRY.
OH!
EH? AM I HEARING THINGS?
THERE'S NO ONE HERE.
UM, I'M DOWN HERE
5'10" PLUS HEIGHT OF SHOES
4'11"
TINY

SPIN
SPIN
SPIN
SPIN
SPIN
SPIN
WHO IS THIS?
EH? UH...YES.
YOU MUST BE "KAZUHA-CHAN!" YOU'RE KAZUHA-CHAN," AREN'T YOU?!
OOOH, LIVE AND IN PERSON!!
YOU'RE SO BEAUTIFUL! A FEAST FOR THE EYES!
I'VE HEARD ALL ABOUT YOU FROM MIZU-SHIMA-KUN... ♡
HE SAYS YOU'RE TALL AND SLENDER, GOOD-LOOKING, AND THAT YOU LOVE YOUR LITTLE BROTHER!
EH?
MIZU-SHIMA-SEN-SEI ...
MANAMI! YOU'RE LATE!
OH? KA-ZUHA-CHAN.
HERE, A DELIVERY!
YES, I WAS TALKING WITH KA-ZUHA-CHAN. ♡
"MA-NAM!"
OH, KA-ZUHA-CHAN, THIS IS-
YEEEES! MANAMI YAMA-MOTO, AGE 22!
NEXT YEAR, I'LL BE MIZUSHIMA-KUN'S BRIDE!

GASP
WHAT ...DID SHE JUST SAY ...?
KA-ZU-HA-CHAN?!
MAKI ...
GASP
AH
STAGGER
WHAT DO I DO?
GASP
GASP
THE WORDS WON'T COME.

I SEE HOW IT IS..
TO SENSEI, I BET I'M NO DIFFERENT FROM HIS STUDENTS
YOU ARE SO BASHFUL.
EEHH! BUT I AM SO HAPPY TO BE CONGRATULATED!
I'M NOWHERE NEAR HIM.
WHEN I TOLD KAZUHA-CHAN ABOUT YOU TWO, SHE RAN OUT...
...SAYING SHE WAS GOING TO CONGRATULATE YOU.
COME ON, MAKI. IT'S NOT THAT BIG A DEAL.
MANAMI!
HUFF HUFF
FLUSTERED
SHE PROBABLY GOT A HEAD RUSH FROM RUNNING OUT SO QUICKLY.
SEN-SEI ...
MANAMI-SAN.
"MANAMI-SAN" I CAN'T POSSIBLY BE LIKE HER.
I'M JUST "KAZUHA-CHAN"
IT'S JUST LIKE SUGIMOTO SAID.
TO BOTH OF YOU.
CONGRATULATIONS.



MAY YOU ALWAYS BE HAPPY.

THERE WERE NO TEARS.

IT WAS LIKE I'D SUDDENLY BEEN BLINDFOLDED. EVERYTHING I HAD SEEN UNTIL NOW WENT AWAY SOMEWHERE.

THEN I BET YOU WERE LAUGH-ING ...
ZAH!
...AT THE KID GETTING THE WRONG IDEA AND ACTING LIKE SHE WAS IN LOVE.
THAT'S RIGHT. I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING.
LAUGH! LAUGH, DAMMIT!
I WON'T LAUGH.
I LOVE YOUR EXCESSIVE HONESTY AND YOUR WHOLE-HEARTED-NESS, KAZUHA
I LOVE ALL OF IT.

...!
I WAS MORTIFIED ...
THAT I HAD CRIED AND WHINED LIKE THAT TO SUGI-MOTO..
SO I WON'T LAUGH.
BUT THIS MAN, WHO CAUSES NOTHING BUT ANXIETY...
I REALLY DO HATE YOU.
...FOR SOME REASON, HELPED ME FEEL BETTER THIS TIME.
AND I HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT WAS NICE HAVING HIM THERE.

I HATE YOU
more than anyone!
世界(せかい)でいちばん
大嫌(だいきら)い

BEFORE I EVEN TOLD HIM HOW I FELT, MY FEELINGS FOR SENSEI BURNED OUT BEFORE THEY EVEN GOT STARTED.

EMOTIONALLY, I'M RELATIVELY OKAY.

BUT IT FEELS LIKE THE FEELINGS ARE JUST FLOATING RIGHT ABOVE THE GROUND WITH NO PLACE TO GO, LIKE A HOT AIR BALLOON THAT'S LOST ITS AIR.

TO BE HONEST, I'M NOT EVEN SURE IF I REALLY LOVED SENSEI...

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTERS! (CRY OF THE SPIRIT)

IT SEEMS THE SPIRIT THAT COMES FLYING OUT OF SEIKO'S MOUTH IS QUITE POPULAR! (LAUGH). BELOW ARE SOME OF THE LETTERS THAT MENTION IT.

"SEIKO MATSUOKA-SAN'S SPIRIT IS A HUNDRED GRADE THAN HER BOYFRIEND'S. ISN'T IT? THE SPIRIT'S FACE IS SO CUTE, AND THEN IT CAREFULLY ANALYZES, 'I'M GOING BACK!' PLEASE HAVE IT APPEAR A LOT IN THE FUTURE, TOO." OMOSO PREFECTURE, M.U-SAN)

EH HEH HEH. IT WAS CUTE? I'M GLAD YOU THINK SO.

"IN I HATE YOU. THESE APPEAR A LOT. DON'T THEY? I REALLY LOVE THEM. I WONDER WHY. BECAUSE I LIKE SMALL ANIMALS, MAYBE?" (MINAMI PREFECTURE, C.M-SAN)

IT'S AN ANIMAL!? (LAUGH) YOU'RE AMAZING, SEIKO! WHAT ARE YOU RAISING IN YOUR MOUTH? BRAVO!!

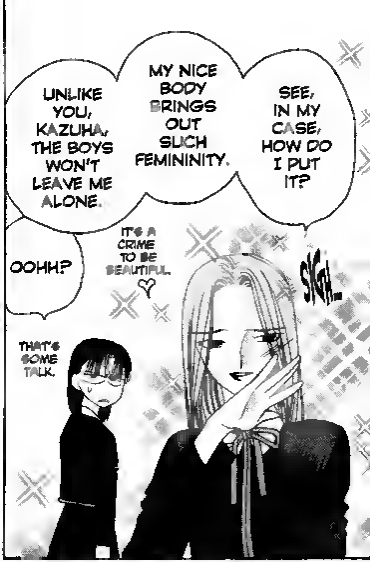
"ALSO, IN REGARDS TO ASAKO. ARE THOSE SPIRITS ON ASAKO'S HEAD?"

"AAAHH! THEY USUALLY NEVER SAY HER NAME! THEY JUST CALL HER THE GIRL WITH TWO SPIRITS ON HER HEAD!"

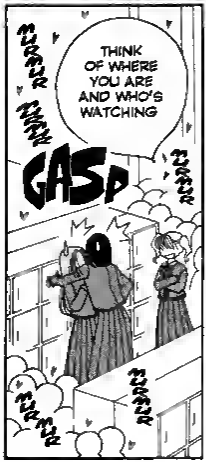
DON'T SWALLOW IT

MAYBE IT REALLY WAS ADMIRATION
AKIYOSHI-SEMPAI ♡
OH
HERE! THESE ARE MY FEELINGS! PLEASE ♡ACCEPT THEM.
ZOOM ZOOM
ZOOM ZOOM ZOOM ZOOM
IT'S BY FORCE!
YOU CAN ASK ME TO ACCEPT THEM, BUT...
THOSE GIRLS HAVE THE WRONG IDEA TOO
REALLY
SIGH
THEY SURE ARE HYPER
SO EARLY IN THE MORNING
EVENTUALLY FORCED TO TAKE IT
KYAAAH! SHE'S GREAT TODAY, TOO
STUNNED
NOT STUNNED
EH... YEAH.
GOODNESS, YOU'RE AS POPULAR AS EVER
HEH HEH
WITH THE GIRLS.
SENKO

KYA!
YANK


SEE, IN MY CASE, HOW DO I PUT IT?
MY NICE BODY BRINGS OUT SUCH FEMININITY.
UNLIKE YOU, KAZUHA, THE BOYS WON'T LEAVE ME ALONE.
OOHH?
IT'S A CRIME TO BE BEAUTIFUL.
SIGH...
THAT'S SOME TALK.

TO SENKO
FLUTTER
PLOP


THINK OF WHERE YOU ARE AND WHO'S WATCHING
MURMUR
MURMUR
GASP
MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR

I KNOW YOU GUYS ARE FRIENDS, BUT...
WE ARE NOT!

SOMETHING FELL. I WONDER WHAT IT IS, O CHIVALROUS SENKO-SAN
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT THE BOYS?
DON'T TALK IN MY EAR.
OW.
I—I'M POPULAR WITH BOYS AND GIRLS

DISHEARTENED.
DON'T TALK LIKE IT'S YOUR PROBLEM!
NOTHING'S MORE FUN THAN OTHERS' MISFORTUNE
...DEMON.
EE HEE HEE HEE
MURMUR
2-B
AH HA HA! IT'S TOUGH BEING POPULAR.
OH, PULL YOURSELVES TOGETHER!
I'LL SHOW YOU THE PICTURES FROM THE ATHLETIC MEET AND THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL.
YOU FINALLY GOT THEM DEVELOPED?!
AH, THESE ARE FROM THE PLAY!!
YOU BOTH PLAYED PRINCES, SO THE REACTION WAS INCREDIBLE.
SAY, KAZUHA
NNP?
THOSE GIRLS MIGHT BE A BOTHER TO YOU
YOU REALLY DO LOOK GREAT IN A BOY'S UNIFORM, KAZUHA
SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE IN NO TIME
WHEN DID YOU TAKE THIS...?
ACK! WHAT'S WITH THIS FACE?
MY SKILLS ARE THE BEST OF THE BEST.
MATSUOKA, YOU LOOK GOOD, TOO
YOU'RE COOL AS LONG AS YOU STAY QUIET

EVEN IF THEY'RE NOT SERIOUS, THERE ARE TIMES WHEN YOU TWO --- WHO ARE SO POPULAR ... ...ARE AN EMOTIONAL SUPPORT TO THEM.
BUT PEOPLE WANT WHAT THEY DON'T HAVE.
BECAUSE THEY'RE HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS, THEY GO AFTER WHAT THEY DON'T HAVE IN THE OPPOSITE SEX.
ASAKO ..
FOR NOW, YOU SHOULD BE SOMETHING FOR THEM TO ADMIRE
ADMIR-ATION ... HUH?
GHEGH.
GOING TO CHECK ON SOMONE, JUST TO GET A GLIMPSE OF THEM BEING HAPPY WHEN THEY'RE NICE TO YOU...
TCH.
DON'T USE US LIKE THAT JUST SO YOU CAN TAKE SECRET PICTURES TO SELL TO THOSE GIRLS!
PAY US ROYALTIES!
STOP TAKING DISTASTEFUL PICTURES OF US SLEEPING!

I DON'T HAVE A WHOLE LOT TO SAY ABOUT KAZUHA. (EHP I'M MEAN?!) OH MY. WHAT TO SAY? JUST, JUST PLEASE PATIENTLY WATCH OVER HER AS SHE GROWS.

AS FOR SUGIMOTO, HE DIDN'T TALK LIKE A GIRL UNTIL RIGHT BEFORE I DREW UP THE NAME (THE ROUGH ROUGH-DRAFT OF THE MANGA). JUST KIND OF HAPPENED TO THAT... HE'S EVEN STRANGER THAN I HAD PLANNED, BUT WHAT DO YOU THINK?

<SUGINO-SAN AND ME>

THE MODEL FOR SENKO IS MY FRIEND SUNAKO. I MEAN, THEY REALLY LOOK ALIKE? LIKE HOW EVEN THEIR HAIR STYLE GETS ALL CRAZY OVER ONE PERSON (YOU CALL THAT A PERSON?) THEIR SLIGHT ROTTENNESS AND THEIR CRAZY SIDES, WITHOUT A DOUBT, SUNACHO=SENKO.

NOTE: I'M COMPLIMENTING THEM!! I FEEL LIKE SHE'S GONNA HIT ME LATER. (LAUGH)

SENKO MATSUOKA: BORN NOVEMBER 22. BLOOD-TYPE AB. LIKE HER BROTHER. BECAUSE SHE ASSOCIATES WITH THE PEOPLE IN THE AKIYOSHI FAMILY, SHE HAS BECOME MISFORTUNE INCARNATE(?) (BY SUNACHO). BUT SHE SPARKLES AS THE NUMBER ONE CHARACTER I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE HAPPY SOMEDAY. SHE WINS BY A MASSIVE LANDSLIDE AS HER MOTHER. I FEEL SHE'S SO UNHAPPY THAT I CAN'T STAND IT. I FEEL LIKE I'LL HEAR SUNACHO'S VOICE SAYING "IN THAT CASE, HURRY AND MAKE HER HAPPY!" (LAUGH)

DAMMIT, THAT SUGIMOTO! THERE'S NO WAY I CAN TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LOVE AND ADMIRATION. UGH

SIGH...

BUT SPEAKING OF PLAYS...

...LAST YEAR'S REALLY WAS THE BEST

TWITCH

"YOUR FEELINGS AREN'T LOVE."

GASP!

AND THEN CHASING AFTER THEM AGAIN...

THE TALE OF THE BAMBOO CUTTER, RIGHT?

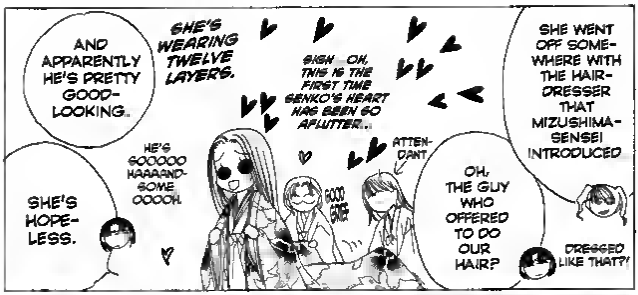
YUP. KAZUHA WAS THE EMPORER, AND MATSUOKA WAS KAGUYA-HIME. THEY START FIGHTING RIGHT TO BEGIN WITH IT WAS A BIG MESS

LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT THAT

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? IT HAD YOUR FATEFUL ENCOUNTER WITH SUGIMOTO-SAN!

AGA ...!

OOOOOH
DAMN!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "FATEFUL?" IT'S ENDLESSLY ANNOYING FOR ME!
HO HO HO
I FEEL LIKE I'LL ALWAYS HEAR HIS CACKLE
AND YOU TAKE HIM FROM ME!
YOU DID THAT ON PUR-POSE
KAAAAA-ZUUU-HAAA! I SAW SUGIMOTO-SAMA FIRST TO BEGIN WITH!
WELL IT'S FUN
DYING DEATH DEATH DYING
IMMEDIATE REPLY.
EHEH
IT'S SCARY.
IF THIS "FATE" REALLY DOES EXIST, I WISH IT WOULD LET ME MEET A BETTER GUY.
LAST YEAR'S SCHOOL FESTIVAL
DING!
KYAA
KYAA
KYAA
I-C
HEY, ASAKO, CAN I TAKE THIS OFF NOW?
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM? IT'S ALL FOR THE SAKE OF THE DREAMING MAIDENS THAT WANT TO HAVE THEIR PICTURES TAKEN WITH YOU
AAHH, I DON'T WANNA MOVE!
AND IT'S HOT!
THEN DON'T MAKE ME WEAR THIS THING ALL MORNING I CAN'T BREATHE IN IT
FAN
FAN
YEAH, YEAH SO WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR OTHER VICTIM?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? THE PLAY IS THIS AFTERNOON IT'S ALMOST TIME


AND APPARENTLY HE'S PRETTY GOOD-LOOKING.
SHE'S WEARING TWELVE LAYERS.
SIGH OH, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME SENKO'S HEART HAS BEEN SO AFLUTTER...
SHE WENT OFF SOME-WHERE WITH THE HAIR-DRESSER THAT MIZUSHIMA-SENSEI INTRODUCED
HE'S GOOOOO HAAAAND-SOME, OOOOH.
ATTEN-DANT
FOOD STUFF
OH, THE GUY WHO OFFERED TO DO OUR HAIR?
SHE'S HOPE-LESS.
DRESSED LIKE THAT?

STAGGER
THEN THAT GUY IS IN THE NURSE'S OFFICE, TOO...
I'M FINE, I'M FINE. YOU NEED TO GET THINGS READY
I'LL GO LOOK FOR HER.
YOU REST, KAZU-HA
YOU SERI-OUSLY LOOK TIRED, SO I'LL GO.
BUT I SURE STAND OUT IN THIS
KYAA. KYAA
SWIRL SWIRL
DRAG
DRAG
AH, SEMPAI, HAVE YOU SEEN SENKO?
OOOH, YOU LOOK GREAT!
SEN STEPPED ON THE SLEEVE OF HER OWN KIMONO, FELL DOWN AND HIT HER HEAD SHE'S IN THE NURSE'S OFFICE RIGHT NOW
THAT IDIOT.
AH '... C.R.A.P.

AKI-YOSHI-SAN !!
KA-ZUHA ??
UGH ... WAH
THUD
I AM DIZZY ...
YOU ...
MUST BE KA-ZUHA AKI-YOSHI-CHAN
WHO ...?
ANY-WAY, ARE YOU ALRIGHT? YOU DON'T LOOK WELL
THIS GUY...
AH .. I'M SORRY
PANT
OH, MY THIS IS TIED ALL WRONG ..
I'VE HEARD ALL ABOUT YOU FROM MIZUSHIMA
A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU. I'M MAKI SUGI-MOTO

YOINK
I'LL REFIT IT FOR YOU.
ALLEY-OOP!
KYA AAA AA AAAH!
WHA?!
JUST A...! REFIT? BUT YOU'RE A GUY!!
EVEN IF YOU TALK LIKE A GIRL...
LEAVE IT TO ME. I MAY BE A MAN, BUT I'M GOOD AT FITTING CLOTHES.
THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM!
WHY YOU
YES, YOU THERE HELP ME TAKE THIS KIMONO OFF OF HER AND GIVE US SOME ROOM OVER THERE.
MURMUR!
OOF
ANYWAY, YOU WON'T LAST UNTIL THE PLAY LIKE THIS
WHYY YOO-OOO-OOU!
MAN! I CAN'T PLAY THE VILLAIN WITH A KIMONO LIKE THIS!
ROLL ROLL
OW! OW!
HAVING FUN.
IF YOU HAVE THIS MUCH ENERGY YOU SHOULD BE FINE FOR THE PLAY.
HAA
HAA
EH?!
IT'S PROBABLY TOO TIGHT
AH! ASAKO, HELP ME!
KAZUHA!

NOW, RELAX.
AH! HOW ROMANTIC!
SNICKER
SNICKER
SNICKER
I WILL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FROM TOP TO BOTTOM ...
...AND ARRANGE EVERYTHING.
SMIRK
IT...
IT'S THOSE EYES OF YOURS THAT I TRUST THE LEAST !!
GAAAAAAAHHHHHHHHHH!

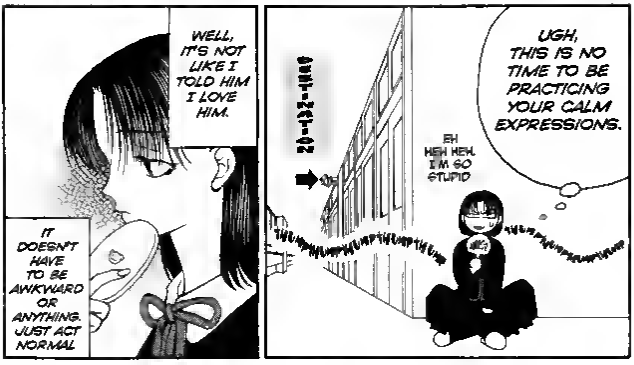
HIGH SPIRITS
RRRGH
CLING
SU-PERB ...
...IS WHAT I WANT TO SAY, BUT ...
DAAAAHH! DON'T GET TOO CLOSE!
GAAAAH!
OH, BUT WHEN I THINK ...
...THAT I FINALLY MET SOMEONE WITH THE IDEAL HAIR TYPE, I JUST GET SO HAPPY
AH?
THERE, ALL DONE. ♡
WELL? HOW DOES IT FEEL?
IT'S AMAZING HE WAS ABLE TO FIT A KIMONO LIKE THIS.
JUST LIKE MIZUSHIMA-CHAN TOLD ME
FROM YOUR FRANK PERSONALITY TO YOUR BEAUTIFUL HAIR, EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU IS ♡EXACTLY MY TYPE
JUST A...

I HEAR YOU GO TO PICK UP YOUR LITTLE BROTHER ON TUESDAYS?
UH ...
SENKO! ARE YOU OKAY ?!
SUGIMOTO-SAN OOHH! I WANTED TO GET EVEN A GLIMPSE OF YOU! I HAVE ♡ BECOME YOUR LOVE ♡ SLAVE
DRAG DRAG DRAG
WHAT A COIN-CI-DENCE
THAT HAPPENS TO BE MY DAY OFF
MMWAH!
うち
I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU EVERY TUESDAY
OOOH!
WHOA!
AAAAAAHH!
SHE CAN'T DEAL WITH SUDDENNESS.
BLANK
HAVING A NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCE
EH?
I'M GOING BACK.
WELL, I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO THE PLAY ♡
IT'S EASY GOING!
WHEN I GOT SOME GOOD PICTURES
I LEFT SOME SALIVA.

Better Memory
AND, WELL, IN THAT VEIN, THE PLAY WAS REALLY SOMETHING.
IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT SENKO TOOK HER ANGER OUT ON HER AFTER THIS.
AND EVEN TUESDAY, MY ONE DAY OF PEACE, IS ALWAYS BEING INTERRUPTED BY HIM. HE REALLY IS A DEVIL.
HE DOES WHATEVER HE WANTS WHENEVER HE WANTS. SOMEBODY PLEASE STOP HIM.
KUH KUH KUH KUH
SIGH. COME TO THINK OF IT, HE'S REALLY SO SELF-CENTERED.
KABOOOOOOM!
KAAA-ZUHAAA-AAAA-AAAAAA
SUGI-MOTOO-OOOO-OOOOO!
AND HE'S ALWAYS FAWNING OVER ME AND SO SURE OF HIMSELF ANYWAY, I CAN'T STAND HIM.
I'VE NEVER MET ANYONE LIKE HIM.
HIS VERY EXIST-ANCE IS IN-TENSE
AND YOU... STOP PICKING FIGHTS AND JUST GO TALK TO HIM DIRECTLY
PUT THAT SPIRIT AWAY.
IT'S IN THE WAY.
MY!

SENSEI, HUH ..? TODAY'S TUESDAY
HOW CAN I FACE HIM.
SIGH. BUT IT MIGHT BE UNBEARABLE TO SEE HIS SMILING FACE.
I DON'T WANT TO EMBARRASS MYSELF IN FRONT OF SUGIMOTO AGAIN
NA-KAZUNA, UM.
AND
GASP
THAT'S MY LINE. YOU SHOULD GO AFTER THAT SENSEI OF YOURS.
SEN-SEI'S GETTING MARRIED NEXT YEAR.
SOME-TIMES MEN DO GET TAKEN BY OTHER WOMEN
SOME-TIMES PEOPLE DO GET RIGHT TO THE HEART OF A MATTER AND MAKE FOOLS OF THEM-SELVES.
...AND ON TOP OF THAT, HE CAME TO MAKE SURE I WAS OKAY AFTER I WAS REJECTED AND MADE HIM LISTEN TO ME WHINE AND I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT I BORROWED HIS SHOULDER WHAT KIND OF A WOMAN AM I?
UWAAHH
HH!
IF YOU WERE TO ASK ME ...
I SAY
EH?
AND I STILL YELLED AT HIM AND SLAPPED HIM AND RAN AWAY, SAYING I SHOULDN'T HAVE GONE TO HIM FOR HELP.
THEY SAY EXPE-RIENCE IS WHAT COUNTS
GASP!
COME TO THINK OF IT, I MADE HIM TAKE TIME OFF WORK ON SUNDAY TO ASK HIS ADVICE, DIDN'T I?
GASP!
THAT IS, WELL, SOME-TIMES THAT HAPPENS, SO, UM
NOT LIS-TENING TO #ENKO.

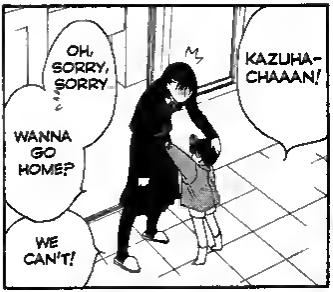
DAAAAAHH! HOW CAN I FACE SUGIMOTO ?!!
AAAH
WHAM!
YAA! I'LL TAKE THAT TONGUE RIGHT OUT!
UWAH! WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, SENKO ?!
"GRAARR!
AAAUGH. THAT WAS AN ORDEAL.
THAT IDIOT!
CAN'T ANYBODY DO SOMETHING ABOUT SENKO'S PERSONALITY?
SAKURA DAYCARE

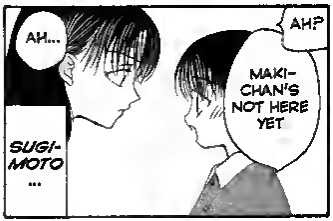

WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE I TOLD HIM I LOVE HIM.
IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE AWKWARD OR ANYTHING. JUST ACT NORMAL
UGH, THIS IS NO TIME TO BE PRACTICING YOUR CALM EXPRESSIONS.
EH HEH HEH. I AM SO STUPID
SUGI-KUN

GUESS WHAT, SENSEI?
AHAHAHA
SLUMP
BUT THAT'S WHAT'S SO HARD!
SIGH
KAZUHA-CHAN'S COMING TODAY!
I KNOW YOU'RE LUCKY TO HAVE SUCH A KIND BIG SISTER, AREN'T YOU?
KIND. HE'S REALLY KIND.
THOSE DAYS WHEN I WAS SO HAPPY.
...WON'T EVER COME BACK.
THAT SMILE IS MEANT FOR HER.
STING...

THE DAYS HAVE GOTTEN A LOT SHORTER.
YES... A LOT SHORTER.
OH, HI.
KAZUHA-CHAN, WELCOME.
KAZUHA-CHAAA
SMILE
THEN YOU'LL HAVE TO BE CAREFUL GOING HOME.

SENSEI DOESN'T CHANGE.
CHUCKLE
I'M ACTUALLY RELIEVED BY THAT SMILE.
EH? WHAT?
NO, NOTHING.
SEE?
THE SKY IS GETTING DARK.
AHH, I WASTED TIME WORRYING!!
I REALLY LOVE THAT FEELING I GET FROM SENSEI.
HIS SMILE DOESN'T CHANGE.
SOMEONE WHO HELPS ME FEEL BETTER
... SENSEI.





MAYBE THAT'S WHAT I LOOKED UP TO IN HIM.

PLEASE, ALWAYS BE THE WAY YOU ARE NOW.

KAZUHA-CHAN. DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

NO, NOTHING

SIGH...
AAA-UGH.
.....
NO, SUGIMOTO'S THE LAST PERSON THAT'D HAPPEN TO...
ACCIDENTS WOULD AVOID HIM...
"I LOVE YOU, KAZUHA, SO I WON'T LAUGH."
IN THE END, IT'S BECOME NATURAL THAT HE'D BE AROUND ON TUESDAYS, TOO.
I'M ASHAMED HE SAW ME LIKE THAT.
AND WHY ARE YOU TALKING SO MANLY? YOU'RE MESSING UP MY IMAGE OF YOU.
THERE'S A LIMIT TO HOW FAR YOU CAN TAKE A JOKE. DON'T TELL SOMEONE YOU LOVE THEM SO CASUALLY.
AAAUGH, IT MUST BE MY IMAGINATION AFTER ALL. EW.

I'M CONTRADICTING MYSELF. I USUALLY HATE HIM SO MUCH.
I WONDER WHAT SUGIMOTO THOUGHT.
I'M GLAD I DIDN'T CRY...
AND THAT'S HOW MUCH I WAS RELIEVED BY WHAT HE SAID
I GUESS AS MUCH AS I ACTED TOUGH, THAT'S HOW MUCH MY EMOTIONS COMPLETELY EXPLODED BACK THERE.
SLAM
UWAAHH, HOW EMBARRASSING.
HEY, EVERYONE! LISTEN TO THIS!!

EVEN SO, I DROVE HERE FAST AS I COULD.
JUST A MINUTE.
JU...
MAKI, YOU'RE LATE.

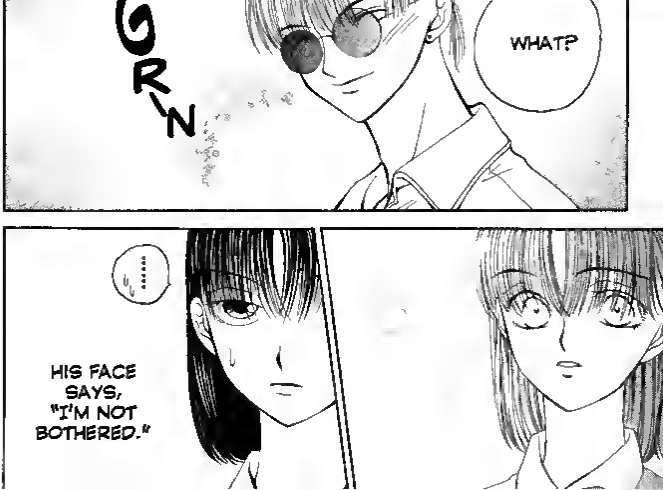
NO WE NE
OOHH, YOU'RE SO CUTE!
I'VE BEEN SUFFERING FROM KAZUHA-DEFICIENCY, YOU KNOW!!
KYAAAAH IT'S KAZUHA-CHAN, IT'S KAZUHA-CHAN ♡

RUMBLE RUMBLE
STICK
H...HERE WE WERE ALL SO WORRIED ABOUT HIM.
MWA-HAHA HAHA
NOW, NOW, KAZUHA-CHAN ♡
LET'S GO HOME ♡
IS HE...
NO MATTER HOW I'M FEELING TODAY, I'LL NEVER LOSE TO AN UGLY
BUT THAT'S NO REASON FOR HIM TO TAKE AWAY MY FUN.
HE MADE ME DO ALL THIS MAJOR CLEANING, ON MY LONG-AWAITED TUESDAY! I CAN'T BELIEVE HIM!
WHY ARE YOU SO HAPPY?!
WELL, I AM BUT A WRETCHED EMPLOYEE AND HE'S THE MASTER OF THE SALON.
OH, THAT BROTHER OF MINE HE SUDDENLY STARTS YELLING AT ME ABOUT TAKING TOO MUCH TIME OFF.

OW!
KYYYYYYYYYYAAAAAAAHHHHHH!
DAMMIT, YOU'RE ANNOY-ING!
...MAKING FUN OF ME?!
YOU'RE THE ONE I CAN'T BELIEVE.
GOH
KNOCKED DOWN
THAT WAS SETTLED BEAUTIFULLY.
MAKI-CHAN?
HUH?
DAAAAAHH! YOU DRIVE ME CRAZY!
PAT
HEH HEH HEH. DO YOU LIKE IT?
SHAKE SHAKE
WH-WHAT'S WITH YOU?!
NORMALLY, YOU COULD DODGE SOMETHING LIKE THAT?!

FIDGET
WH... WHY YOU...
NORMALLY, WHEN PEOPLE... THAT IS, THAT ATTITUDE... YOU KNOW...
FIDGET
WHAT ABOUT IT?
OH IT CAME LOOSE.
LISTEN!
IF YOU LIKE, I'LL SLEEP WITH YOU DIRECTLY.
PERFECT FOR SLEEPING WITH AT NIGHT...
...THE LIFE-SIZE DUMMY, MAKI-CHAN NUMBER 3. TAKE HIM TO BED WITH YOU.
NUMBERS 1 AND 2 WERE APPARENTLY FAILED PRODUCTS.
OH, MY!
.....
IT TOOK ME ABOUT ONE MONTH TO PRODUCE.
DAH DA- DAH
DAHHH

GRIN
WHAT?


.....
HIS FACE SAYS, "I'M NOT BOTHERED."

HE'S COMPLETELY LAID-BACK.
IS HE DOING IT ON PURPOSE?
OR IS HE REALLY NOT BOTHERED?
NO REASON
TUG
AH
OH MY! WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME WITH SUCH COLD EYES?
AHA HA HA HA
ANYWAY, HE HASN'T CHANGED, EITHER
HEY, STOP THAT! DON'T USE MUMMY-CHAN AS A PUNCHING BAG!
GRAAH!
AT TIMES LIKE THIS, I FEEL A LOT BETTER.

SORRY ABOUT LAST SATURDAY.
UM ... HEY.
I GOT MAD AND TOOK IT OUT ON YOU UNFAIRLY.
UM... I CAN'T MAKE IT UP TO YOU OR ANYTHING, BUT...
BOW
... UM.
I'M SORRY.

IT'S ALL RIGHT. IT DIDN'T BOTHER ME
SUGI-MOTO ...
WELL ... THANKS.
BUT, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
SINCE YOU'RE OFFERING, WHY DON'T I LET YOU PAY ME BACK?
AH?
EH?!
KUH
KUH
KUH
KUH
I HAVE BEEN WANTING TO GO SHOPPING
YES, SUNDAY WOULD BE GOOD.
HEY ...

ALL RIGHT.
IT'S A DATE.
FLASH
WHA...
WHAAAAA?!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?

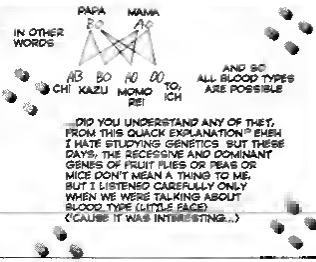
世界(せかい)でいちばん
大嫌(だいきら)い
I HATE YOU
more than anyone!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTERS 2 (BLOOD OF AKIYOSHI FAMILY)

A QUESTION I GET A LOT FROM ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS IS, "KAZUHA IS BLOOD TYPE B, CHIZURU IS AB, MOMOKA AND REI ARE A, AND TONAMI AND ICHIHISA ARE O. WHY ARE THEY ALL DIFFERENT? IT'S WEIRD! ARE THEY REALLY BLOOD RELATIVES?" BUT THIS HAPPENS! THEY REALLY ARE ALL BLOOD RELATIVES! INCIDENTALLY, THE AKIYOSHI PAPA IS TYPE B, AND THE AKIYOSHI MAMA IS TYPE A.

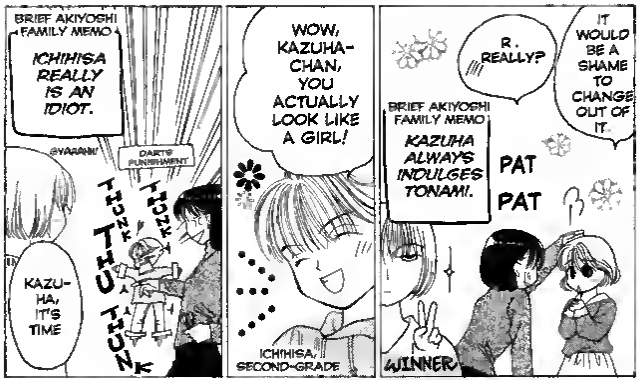
LET ME EXPLAIN. (AH, BEFORE THAT, IF YOU'RE WONDERING WHY A LOT OF ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS ASK THIS QUESTION, IT'S BECAUSE YOU LEARN ABOUT IT IN HIGH SCHOOL BIOLOGY. AT LEAST I REMEMBER IT IN MY FIRST YEAR.

TYPE A IS ACTUALLY SPLIT INTO AA AND AO, AND TYPE B IS SPLIT INTO BB AND BO. O IS OO.


PAPA
B
MAMA
A
IN OTHER WORDS
AB
BO
AO
OO
CHI
KAZU
MOMO
RE!
TO, ICH
AND SO ALL BLOOD TYPES ARE POSSIBLE
...DID YOU UNDERSTAND ANY OF THAT, FROM THIS QUACK EXPLANATION? EHEH I HATE STUDYING GENETICS. BUT THESE DAYS, THE RECESSIVE AND DOMINANT GENES OF FRUIT FLIES OR PEAS OR MICE DON'T MEAN A THING TO ME. BUT I LISTENED CAREFULLY ONLY WHEN WE WERE TALKING ABOUT BLOOD TYPE (LITTLE FACE). (CAUSE IT WAS INTERESTING...)

AH, CRAP. I'M GETTING NERVOUS.
MMM, MMM.
WHAT AM I DOING IN THIS OUTFIT? I'M NOT USED TO THESE CLOTHES.
MMM.
IT'S KIND OF COMPLICATED. I'M MEEETING WITH SUGIMOTO.
BUT I'M FEELING STRANGELY SHY. I GUESS IT MUST BE THIS OUTFIT.
WAIL.
TURNS HER BACK FOR SOME REASON.
OO I.. LOOK WEIRD? COULD IT BE I LOOK WEIRD?? REALLY, REALLY WEIRD?!
AND MAYBE I'M IMAGINING IT, BUT I FEEL LIKE PEOPLE ARE STARING AT ME...
ABOUT AN HOUR AGO
IT'S BECAUSE THEY MADE ME CHANGE CLOTHES!
MOMOKA (MIDDLE SCHOOL SECOND YEAR)
HMMM. HMMM.
SUPER CASUAL WEAR
YOU'RE GOING IN THAT? OH, I SEE. NOT THAT IT REALLY MATTERS
DON'T LAUGH. YOU'RE SCARING ME.
...IS THAT A PROBLEM?
BLONT
YES, IT IS.
← DENIM JACKET
← JEANS

YOU JUST SAID IT DOESN'T MATTER!
NOW, TAKE IT OFF
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
LEAVE IT TO ME
YOU WON'T REGRET IT
GYAAH
TOSS
TOSS
THAT'S WHAT A BAD GUY WOULD SAY!
FINISHED
OOHH, LOOKING GOOD
MO-MOKA ...
YOU'RE HAVING FUN WITH THIS, AREN'T YOU?
HMMM?
HAVING FUN? HOW RUDE I'M JUST AMUSED, IS ALL
I'M TAKING IT OFF!
FUME
FUME
OH, CAN YOU?
SLAM
BIG SISTER!
UWAAAH! WHAT'S GOING ON?!
YOU'RE SO PRETTY. THAT LOOKS SO GOOD ON YOU! ♡
TONAMI (FOURTH GRADE)
UGH
SPARKLE
SPARKLE
SPARKLE


BRIEF AKIYOSHI FAMILY MEMO
ICHIHISA REALLY IS AN IDIOT.
GYAAAH!
DART'S PUNISHMENT
THUNK
THUNK
THUNK
KAZU-HA, IT'S TIME
WOW, KAZUHA-CHAN, YOU ACTUALLY LOOK LIKE A GIRL!
ICHIHISA, SECOND-GRADE
R. REALLY?
IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO CHANGE OUT OF IT.
BRIEF AKIYOSHI FAMILY MEMO
KAZUHA ALWAYS INDULGES TONAMI.
PAT
PAT
WINNER

COME TO THINK OF IT
NERVOUS NERVOUS,
FIDGET FIDGET.
SHEESH, WHAT DOES SHE MEAN FAVOR?
MY SISTER CHASED ME OUT LIKE THIS.
SIGH.
IT'S DIFFERENT WITH GIRLS.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IVE WAITED TO MEET SOMEONE LIKE THIS.
AND SO WE COME TO NOW
YOU'RE GOING ON A DATE, AREN'T YOU? YOU CAN AT LEAST DO HIM THIS FAVOR
YOU WON'T BE PUNISHED FOR IT.
SHOO, SHOO.
...?

WHISPER
!
OH, MY. YOU WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING ME THAT MUCH? ♡
MAN.
I CAN'T CALM DOWN.

MY!
THAT'S WHY I SAID I WOULD PICK YOU UP.
THERE WASN'T A TRAIN ARRIVING AT A BETTER TIME
YOUR DRIVING IS SCARY.
YOU'RE A SPEED DEMON.

UHYU-HYU! YOU'VE SHO BWASH-FUH.
GUHGUHGH
STREEEETCH
DON'T MATER-IALIZE BEHIND PEOPLE!
(TRANSLATION)
TEE HEE HEE! YOU'RE SO BASHFUL
LONG-NECKED MONSTER

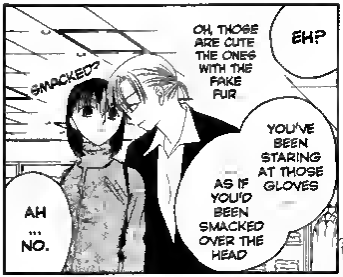
YOU'RE EARLY WHEN DID YOU GET HERE?

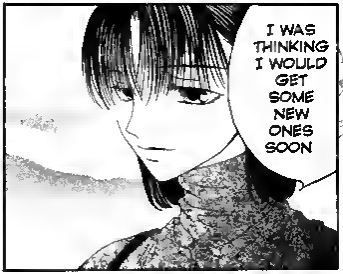
TH... THIS IS, I MEAN ...
GRIN
GRIN
GRIN
GRIN
HUFF
I DIDN'T... HAVE TIME TO CHANGE.
GRIN
GRIN
IT'S PERFECT FOR YOU, KAZUHA-CHAN
WINE RED SUITS YOU
WHAT?
CREEPING ME OUT, GRINNING LIKE THAT.
AH?
YOUR CLOTHES
AAAAHH! I TOLD YOU TO STOP SMILING LIKE THAT!
BUT ..
TEE HEE!
WHEN I THINK THAT I GET TO..
..WALK AROUND WITH SUCH A LOVELY GIRL, I JUST ..
MEANIE! YOU DON'T HAVE TO HIT ME!!
AND WITH YOUR FIST!
BECAUSE YOU SAY STUPID THINGS.
FUME
FUME
FUME

OOOHH, YOU'RE ALWAYS HITTING ME.
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO TALK TO YOU!
MAYBE I WENT TOO FAR
GLANCE GLANCE
TUG
OKAY! LET'S GO!
I'M HAPPY BECAUSE YOU DRESSED UP TO SEE ME.
WELL...
JUST A...! WHAT ARE YOU SO EXCITED ABOUT?

LOOK, LOOK KAZUHA-CHAN! A PINK TEDDY BEAR. ♡
STOP
OOOOOO OOOOH! SO ADORABLE! ♡
IT...IT WASN'T REALLY FOR YOU.
PUNISHMENT
WHAT ARE YOU DAWDLING FOR?!
OOOH.
AWW, WHY NOT?
I CAN'T STAND SUGI-MOTO.
I TRY TO STAY AT MY OWN PACE ...
STOPPING ALONG THE WAY
YOU HAVE FINE TASTE, SIR.
COME ON, GIVE ME DISCOUNT...
IGNORING
AAHH, WAIT!
STALK STALK STALK
PRETENDING SHE DOESN'T KNOW HIM.
HEY YOU!
...BUT HE ALWAYS DRAGS ME INTO HIS.
LOOK, KAZUHA-CHAN. THIS IS A PRETTY PIECE OF JEWELRY
IS IT AN EARRING, I WONDER ?
SIR, SIR, THAT'S A NOSE RING
NOSE?!
BEHH? THERE'S ONLY ONE

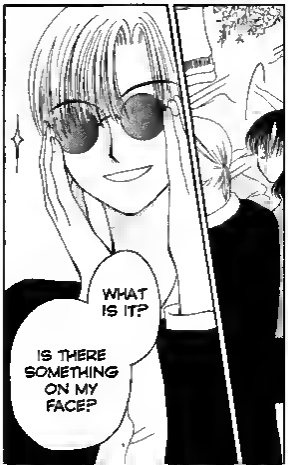
WHY IS THAT?
HE MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I WAS STUPID
AH HA HA. OH, YOU DON'T PUT THOSE THINGS ON DISPLAY
..FOR WORRYING EVEN A LITTLE
YEAH.


EH?
OH, THOSE ARE CUTE THE ONES WITH THE FAKE FUR
SMACKED?
YOU'VE BEEN STARING AT THOSE GLOVES
AS IF YOU'D BEEN SMACKED OVER THE HEAD
AH ... NO.



SO MUCH THAT I FEEL LIKE I'LL EVEN FORGET..

...THAT I HATE SUGIMOTO..

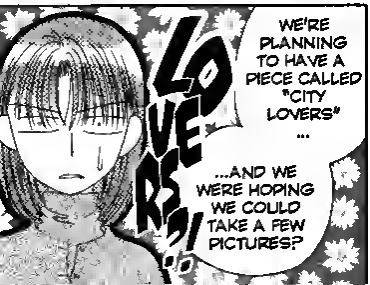


I LIKE SENSEI.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO HURRY TO GET AN ANSWER, YOU KNOW.
GAH, WHAT AM I SAYING?
BUT I'VE STARTED TO THINK THAT MAYBE IT WAS ADMIR-ATION.
...LIKE YOU SAID.
I WAS JUST THINKING YOU REALLY DO KNOW EVERY-THING
TO AN EXTENT.
AND IF I'M CURIOUS ABOUT SOME-THING, I WON'T BE SATISFIED UNTIL I ASK ABOUT IT.
HO HO
IT'S NOTH-ING
I DON'T UNDER-STAND YOU.
WHAT ARE YOU, FOUR?
I'M THE YOUNGEST, SO I'M SELFISH LIKE THAT
...BUT.
MAYBE I'M THE ONE I UNDERSTAND LEAST

IT'S NOT AS THOUGH YOU HAVE TO DECIDE SOMETHING LIKE THAT RIGHT AWAY.
YOU MIGHT FALL IN LOVE WITH SOMEBODY ELSE.
AND THEN ALL YOUR CURRENT ANGUISH MIGHT TURN INTO MEMORIES
SUDDENLY I THINK...
AND YOU CAN LOOK BACK ON IT AND LAUGH.
...HE MIGHT ACTUALLY BE A NICE GUY.
HE SEEMS RANDOM AND IRRESPONSIBLE.
BUT HE'S NOT RANDOM AND IRRESPONSIBLE.
MEMORIES, HUH ...?

I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND SUGIMOTO.
KEH.
NO THANKS.
THEN WHY DON'T I BUY YOU SOME NEW ONES? ♡
SOMETIMES HE'S SHARP ABOUT THINGS, AND I'M CONSTANTLY BEING DISORIENTED.
WHENEVER I THINK HE'S GOOFING AROUND, HE SUDDENLY TURNS SERIOUS.
I CAN'T USE THOSE GLOVES, AFTER ALL.

BUT...
OH, I BET THOSE WOULD LOOK GOOD ON KAZUHA-CHAN.
HUH. HE'S PUTTING ALL HIS EFFORT INTO BEING DEPRESSED
THAT'S NOT IT.
AWW, YOU'RE TOO CONSIDERATE.
DROOP

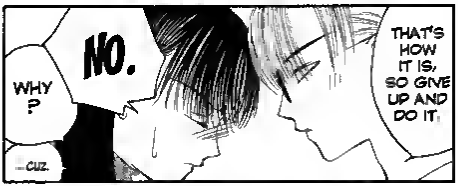


I GUESS HE'S NOT SO BAD

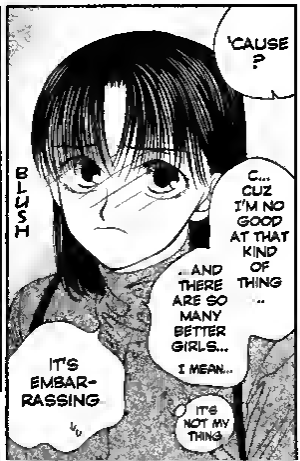
NOTE 1 KAZUHA
HAND
BAMM!
ペッカ
OH, I'M SORRY, BUT WE'RE NOT--
Hey you!!
MY! YOU TWO! YOU REALLY HAVE AN EYE FOR THIS!
ANYWAY, DON'T JUST DECIDE LIKE THAT!
WE REALLY ARE NOT
I TAKE BACK WHAT I THOUGHT EARLIER!
I FEEL SICK.
HO HO HO
YOU'RE SPENDING THE DAY WITH ME, AREN'T YOU?
HAPPINESS LORD
R...REALLY? THEN MAY WE TAKE A FEW MORE PICTURES?
AND PLEASE TELL US YOUR NAMES
OK, OK
I'M SURE YOU'LL GO FAR... ♡
KAKAKAKAKA
SUGI-MOT-OOOOO!
WHIMPER
ANY-THING ...

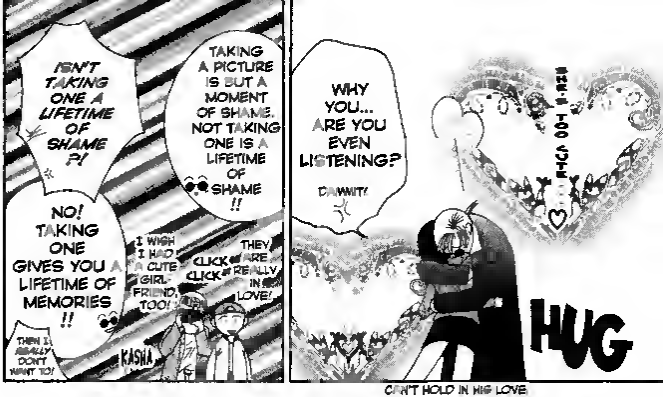
WHAT IS THE NAGOYA FAMILY? THAT IS WHAT PEOPLE CALL HIROMI MUTOU-SENSEI, TAKUMI SUGINO-SENSEI! SAKURO ARITA-SENSEI (NICKNAMED KURARA-CHAN (NOW GOES BY ERIKA HAYASHI)) AND HIDAKA EHEHEH. WE'RE A GROUP OF FOUR GOOD FRIENDS JUST THE OTHER DAY, ON FEBRUARY 9TH, WE HAD A VALENTINE'S PARTY
AT THE KARAOKE BOX
THE FIRST HOUR OR TWO IS ALWAYS AWKWARD...
THEN I'M GRILLED ABOUT MY LOVE LIFE
I'M BASHING LITTLE MISS THE WITCH, GIRL!
OKAY, I'M BASHING THE SINGLE 2 COMEDY DUO!
MUCH MERRYMAKING (LAUGH)
GO! GO!GO! GO-
WHOA! GO-GO!
AND THEN WE SING POPULAR SONGS
BAAAAM
240 MILLION EYES (BY HIROMI GO)
OH MY
WHAT NUMBER DID YOU PUT IN, KURARA?
GYAHAHAHA! HI-HIROMI
HIROMI GO!
NEXT IS THE SHOCKING FINALE THAT AWAITED US! GO TO THE NEXT SPREAD!

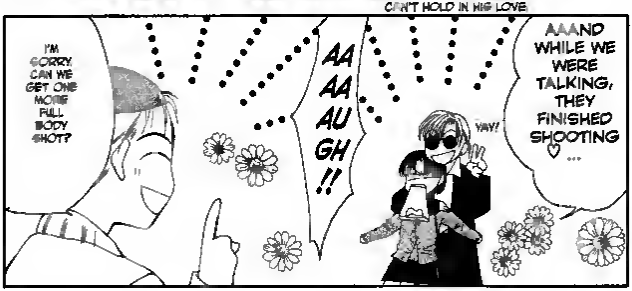
ARE YOU FROM TOKYO?
THAT'S RIGHT. OUR DEADLINE'S COMING UP AND WE DON'T HAVE A NICE COUPLE.
YES.
YOU TWO ARE THE ONES WHO REALLY HAVE IT ROUGH.
NO, NO. IT HAPPENS ALL THE TIME
YOU'VE BEEN DUMPED
GLOOM AND DESPAIR.
BLOW
WE ALL HAVE IT HARD
THREE GROWN MEN
YOU GUYS ARE REALLY CREEPING ME OUT.


NO.
WHY ?
-CUZ.
THAT'S HOW IT IS, SO GIVE UP AND DO IT.

SHE'S ...
AND I'M DRESSED LIKE THIS TODAY
AUGH, I HATE THIS!


'CAUSE ?
BLUSH
C... CUZ I'M NO GOOD AT THAT KIND OF THING ...
... AND THERE ARE SO MANY BETTER GIRLS...
I MEAN...
IT'S EMBARRASSING
IT'S NOT MY THING


ISN'T TAKING ONE A LIFETIME OF SHAME?!
TAKING A PICTURE IS BUT A MOMENT OF SHAME. NOT TAKING ONE IS A LIFETIME OF SHAME !!
NO! TAKING ONE GIVES YOU A LIFETIME OF MEMORIES !!
I WISH I HAD CUTE GIRL FRIEND, TOO!
CLICK CLICK
THEY ARE REALLY IN NEW LOVE!
THEN I REALLY DON'T WANT TO!
KASHA
WHY YOU... ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING?
DAMMIT!
HUG
CAN'T HOLD IN HIS LOVE

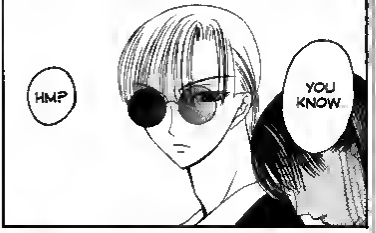

I'M SORRY, CAN WE GET ONE MORE FULL BODY SHOT?
AAAUGH !!
YAY!
AAAND WHILE WE WERE TALKING, THEY FINISHED SHOOTING ♡...

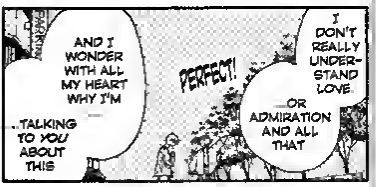
SHEESH, NOTHING GOOD HAPPENS WHEN I'M WITH YOU!
MUTTER MUTTER

I CAN'T SMILE IN THIS SITUATION, DUMB ASS!
GIRLFRIEND, GIVE US AL SMILE!
COME NOW, KAZUHA-CHAN, SMILE, ♡SMILE...
HI HA

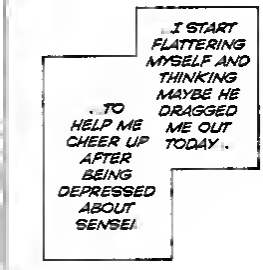
RAN OUT OF ENERGY, AND GAVE UP.
TAKE ONE IF YOU CAN.

WELL, WHY SHOULD THEY?
SNICKER
AH!
THESE THINGS ARE STIMULATING.
PERFECT FOR THE OCCASIONAL CHANGE OF MOOD.
THIS PACE AGAIN
WHEN HE'S SUDDENLY NICE TO ME ...


HIM?
YOU KNOW

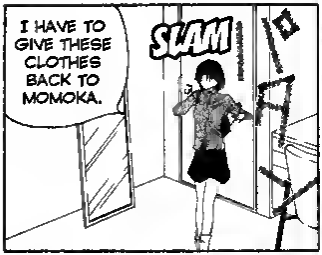

AND I WONDER WITH ALL MY HEART WHY I'M
..TALKING TO YOU ABOUT THIS
PERFECT!
I DON'T REALLY UNDER-STAND LOVE
...OR ADMIRATION AND ALL THAT

BUT I GUESS
I'M OVER SENSEI
I SEE

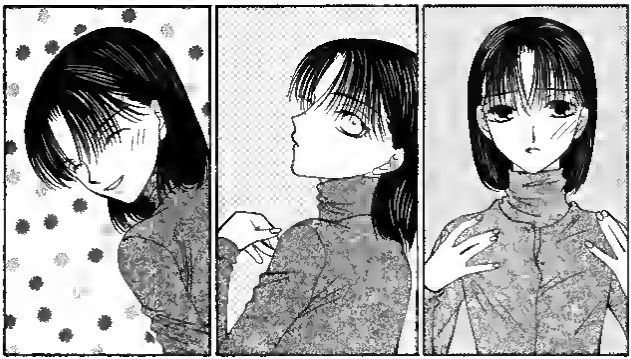

..I START FLATTERING MYSELF AND THINKING MAYBE HE DRAGGED ME OUT TODAY..
..TO HELP ME CHEER UP AFTER BEING DEPRESSED ABOUT SENSEI

THERE, LIKE THAT
YEAH I'M FLAT-TERING MYSELF
BUT..

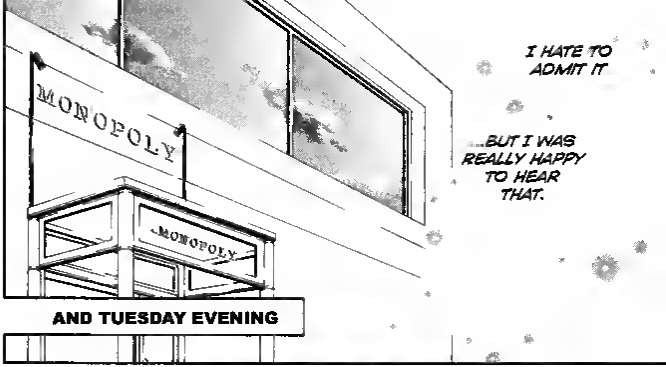
BUT I'M IN JUST A BIT OF A GOOD MOOD TODAY.

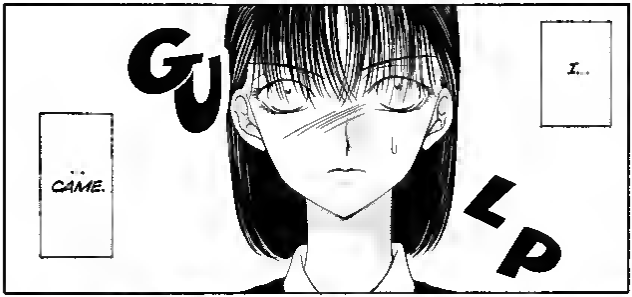

I HAVE TO GIVE THESE CLOTHES BACK TO MOMOKA.
SLAM

SO I THOUGHT I COULD AT LEAST DO THIS FOR HIM.
I'M HOME.



I ACK-KNOWLEDGE THAT YOU'RE MAKING AN EFFORT TO CHANGE YOUR SOUR FACE, BUT YOU CAN'T CHANGE THE FACE YOU'RE BORN WITH, SO QUIT THE USELESS STRUGGLING
YOU SHOULD MAKE A LITTLE EFFORT TO CHANGE THAT PERSON-ALITY !!
HEH.
SHAKING WITH EMBARRASSMENT.
I'M JOKING YOU'RE GLAD YOU WORE THAT, ADMIT IT.
NO— NOT REALLY
I SEE SO YOU ARE GLAD.
...!!
IT LOOKS GOOD ON YOU, KAZUHA.
WHY NOT DRESS LIKE THAT MORE OFTEN?
SLAM
A BIG SISTER SEEKS ROMANCE AROUND! BY 14-YEAR OLD SISTER! IT'S PRIVATE!
"YOUR CLOTHES-- WINE RED LOOKS GOOD ON YOU."


MONOPOLY
MONOPOLY
I HATE TO ADMIT IT
...BUT I WAS REALLY HAPPY TO HEAR THAT.
AND TUESDAY EVENING


GULP
I...
...CAME.

AH! A SPLIT END.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IN TWO YEARS I'VE ASK'ED SOMEONE ELSE TO PICK UP REI FOR ME.
...IT IS SHOWING AFTER ALL.
AND I'M BLOWING OFF THE DAY THAT WAS SO SPECIAL TO SEE SUGIMOTO OF ALL PEOPLE

"OF COURSE, IT WILL BE FREE. IT'S ON THE WAY HOME FROM SCHOOL, RIGHT? DON'T WORRY. I'LL DRIVE YOU HOME."♡
HO HO HO
"THIS TUESDAY IS MY DAY OFF, BUT I'LL BE THERE, SO COME RIGHT TO MY SALON."
FLASHBACK
HA HA HA! I LIVE OUT IN THE BOONDOCKS.
GRUMBLE
IN HER HIH
HE SAYS. HOW LONG DOES HE THINK IT TOOK ME TO GET HERE?

I WONDER IF HE'LL AT LEAST DO HIS JOB SERIOUSLY.
MASTER
AH, NOT BAD.
LET'S SEE, STRAIGHT FACE, STRAIGHT FACE
DON'T YOU MEAN "SERIOUS" FACE?
CRRRRAP. I THINK I'VE GOTTEN SO USED TO HIS SPACE, IT'S NUMBING MY SENSES
I'VE BEEN FEELING "CUTE" SINCE THE OTHER DAY
EXCUSE ME—
CREAK—
GAH!
HUH?
NO-BODY'S HERE?

"SUGIMOTO"...?
AND A WOMAN'S VOICE.
SNICKER
STOP IT, SUGIMOTO-KUN ALWAYS KIDDING AROUND
DON'T TELL ME HE TRICKED ME OR SOMETHING.
IT MAKES ME REALLY NERVOUS THAT THERE'S NO ONE WAITING FOR ME
STEP
SHE'S IN HIGH SCHOOL, RIGHT? THAT'S A SEVEN YEAR DIFFERENCE.
GASP
HUMM
AND YOU'RE NOT SERIOUS, ANYWAY.
I FEEL FOR HER, YOU GETTING HER HOPES UP LIKE THAT.

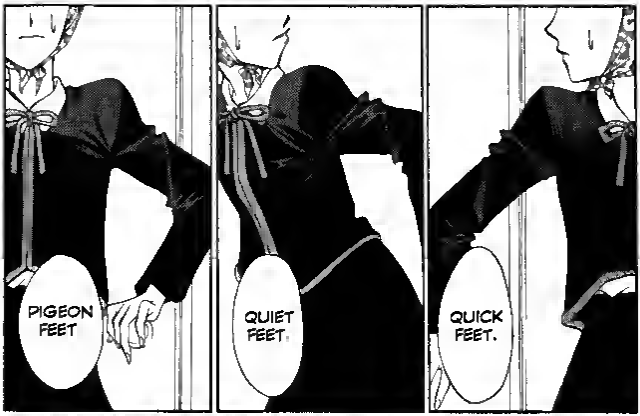
YES, WELL.
BUT I WOULD "LOVE" HER VERY BONES IF IT WOULD GET HER TO LET ME TOUCH HER HAIR.
STING
HUMP ...
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN.
I WAS STUPID
CLENCH

HIS FICKLE, JOKE OF A PERSONALITY.
THE MAN I HATE MORE THAN ANYONE!!
KAZU-HA-CHAN ...
THAT'S RIGHT I DO NOT THINK A THING OF HIM.
THESE ARE TEARS OF HUMIL-IATION.
THIS HAIR IS WHY HE FOLLOWS ME AROUND.
...I'VE GOTTEN A LOT OF SPLIT ENDS, SO I THOUGHT I'D GET IT CUT ABOUT AN INCH.
BUT YOU KNOW

SNIP!
ハラリ
FLUTTER
CASP
I WON'T EVER LET YOU TOUCH ANY OF MY HAIR!!
OH, MY, SHE REALLY DID CUT IT.

EH?
OOOHH, YOU'RE SUCH A GAMBLER!
IF SHE HADN'T REALLY CUT IT HERSELF, SHE WOULD HATE YOU LIKE CRAZY, YOU KNOW
OH, BUT MAYBE SHE ALREADY HATES YOU PLENTY
I CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH KAZUHA-CHAN.
COME NOW, KAWAI-CHAN, DO YOU THINK I'D MAKE A BET I COULDN'T WIN?
THE PLAN WAS A BIG SUCCESS. NOW I CAN CUT HER HAIR THE ♡WAY I ♡WANT ♡ TO.
JUST A... WHAT'S UP WITH YOU TWO?
KAZUHA-CHAN.
GLINT
I'M SURE...NO, I KNOW SHORT HAIR WILL BECOME YOU. ♡
OH, THIS IS YURI KAWAI. SHE'S MY BEST FRIEND, AND A BUDDING ACTRESS ♡ ♡
I'M SORRY FOR TRICKING YOU. BUT HE SAID HE JUST HAD TO CUT YOUR HAIR SHORT
TRICKED
WELL IF I ASKED SUDDENLY, SHE'D PROBABLY SAY NO
SUGI-MOTO-KUN, YOU'RE SUCH A SADIST.

世界でいちばん
大嫌い
I HATE YOU
more than anyone!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTERS 3 (HIDAKA THE FOREIGNER)

I LIVE IN AICHI PREFECTURE. ON THE EAST SIDE OF MIKAWA, SO I SPEAK MIKAWA DIALECT. MIKAWA IS SPLIT INTO EAST AND WEST SIDES, AND THE DIALECTS ARE SUBTLY DIFFERENT. SO SOMETIMES IT SHOWS UP IN THE DIALOGUE OF MY WORKS. I WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT SOME LETTERS ABOUT THAT.

"YOU WROTE ABOUT MIKAWA DIALECT IN YOUR 'DAILY HEAVEN,' BUT I CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO GUESS WHAT COUNTRY MIKAWA DIALECT COMES FROM." (MIYAZAKI PREFECTURE, J.L-SAN)

...JAPAN! IT COMES FROM JAPAN!! JA-PA-N!

EH HEH HEH. COME ON, PEOPLE, PLEASE DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH.

AND THE NEXT LETTER MADE ME BURST INTO LAUGHTER THE MOMENT I READ IT.

"I WAS BORN IN TOKYO, AND GREW UP IN AICHI. I LIVED IN A HICK TOWN.

IT WAS T CITY.

IT REALLY IS A HICK TOWN THOUGH.

GULP
...!
DON'T YOU MEAN "NINJA FEET?"
QUIT IT WITH THE DAD JOKES.
SNEAK...
SORRY FOR LIVING ON THE OLD GAGS
IT'S NO-THING
THIS ...?
IEH IEH
WHAT'S WITH THE BANDANA?
?
I SAW YOU COMING BACK THROUGH THE WINDOW
I LAY IN WAIT
DIDN'T YOU HAVE SUGIMOTO-SAN DRIVE YOU HOME?
NO, THAT IS...
M-MOMO ...!
AOA
RETREAT
TAKE IT OFF.
BAH
STOP!
FLINCH
REALLY

FLASH
WHAT? THERE'S NOTHING SPECIAL ABOUT —
JUMP
AH HA HA
HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA
HA HA
SLIP
ONE HIGH SCHOOL FIRST YEAR
THREE LITTLE ONES GETTING OUT OF THE BATH
STEAM
STEAM

CHILLS
A BAD OMEN
BRIEF AKIYOSHI FAMILY MEMO
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME MOMOKA HAS LAUGHED SO HARD.
BY THE AUTHOR
LAUGHING ...?
THUMP
MOMOKA IS...
DIIIIING
SORRY, SORRY. THE HAIR THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE THERE, WASN'T, SO I WAS SURPRISED, I WAS OVERCOME WITH LAUGHTER.
THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO SEE ME.
YOU TELL ME THAT AFTER YOU LAUGHED SO HARD?
WHO SAID IT LOOKS AWFUL?
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING
YOU'RE SO SELF-CONSCIOUS.
THIS IS JUST BARELY LONGER THAN MINE!
YEAH, YEAH.
I KNOW, IT LOOKS AWFUL.
CALM
BRUSH BRUSH
NOD NOD
NOD NOD
IT'S SO ROUND, IT'S NICE.
GIRL SCHOOL & MYSTERIOUS.
WHEN YOU GET HOME FROM SCHOOL TOMORROW
TELL US WHAT KIND OF REACTION YOU GOT
DANGIT, CHIZURU!
STOP TOUCHING THE BACK OF MY HEAD ALREADY!

DREAMY
TWINKLE TWINKLE
TWINKLE
THAT'S MY BIG SISTER.
TO... TONAMI
COME BACK...
BRIEF AKIYOSHI FAMILY MEMO
TONAMI WANTS TO BE JUST LIKE KAZUHA
WHEN YOU GO TO SCHOOL, THAT WILL BE WHAT EVERYONE LOOKS AT.
BECAUSE, BECAUSE, IT LOOKS SOOO PRETTY ON YOU.
NO, BIG SISTER, DON'T SAY THAT!!
AAAAAAH!
WELL, I GUESS I'LL TAKE A BATH.
DAAAAAAAAH! I DON'T WANNA GO TO SCHOOL!
AHH!
GLOOM
SO IT REALLY DOESN'T LOOK GOOD ON ME!
HM
IT'S NOT A PROBLEM OF WHETHER OR NOT IT LOOKS GOOD ANYMORE, IS IT?
HER PRIDE AS A WOMAN?
GYAAAAAAH!
GLINT
GLINT
EHEH.
CAN...
RUSH!
CAN I CALL YOU...
...BIG BROTHER?
AH?
KAZU-HA-CHAN, KAZU-HA-CHAN.
TWINKLE TWINKLE
TWINKLE
WHAT IS IT, ONEE-SAN?

A FEW HOURS EARLIER...
HIM!!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
YOU'RE SO OBEDIENT ALL OF A SUDDEN
HIM
FW
OOSH
HIY!
I REALLY DIDN'T MEAN TO CUT IT
UGH, WHY AM I BLUSHING?!!!
SO WHAT CHANGED YOUR MIND?
I DIDN'T CUT IT BECAUSE I WANTED TO
I DIDN'T CHANGE MY MIND
I'M SO APPALLED BY MY OWN STUPIDITY AND YOUR AUDACITY THAT I CAN'T SPEAK
SULK
HA HA
I HATE TO TELL YOU THIS, BUT THERE IS SOMEONE WHO SAYS THEY LIKE MY PERSONALITY
FLAP
THEY'VE GOT STRANGE TASTE
BECAUSE I'M LOVED
KYA

...YOU MEAN?
THAT LADY THAT WAS HERE ...?
THUMP
SNIP
SNIP
IT.. IT'S NOT LIKE I REALLY CARE OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT! ANYWAY, YOU'RE TOO PUSHY.
YES, YES, I'M LISTENING!
DAAAHH! WHAT AM I SAYING?
HAHA
SUGIMOTO! YOU LISTENING?!
LISTEN SERIOUSLY!
DAMMIT, ARGH!
SNIP
SILENCE
GASP
YOU KEEP TALKING LIKE THAT, BUT YOU ALWAYS GO ALONG WITH ME.
SEES HIM IN THE MIRROR
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
STARE
WHA?!
CHUCKLE

THUMP
GASP
WELL, THAT BEING A LIE ...
WAH!
NOW, DON'T STRUGGLE, OR I'LL CUT YOUR EAR!
HEH HEH HEH
LET GO OF ME!
TRUST MY SKILL.
I'LL MAKE YOU A MUCH, MUCH MORE LOVELY GIRL THAN YOU ARE NOW.

DO WHAT YOU WANT.
HUFF.
SNUGG
SNUGG
THEN I'LL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THOSE WORDS.
SNUGG
THE NEXT THING I KNEW, I KEPT FOLLOWING THE MOVEMENTS OF SUGIMOTO'S HANDS IN THE MIRROR.
THIS IS SUGIMOTO'S "JOB."
MY HEART WAS POUNDING A LITTLE
HE'S GOOD AT THIS.
THERE'S NO MUSIC; ALL I HEAR IS THE SOUND OF HIS SCISSORS.
SNIP
SNIP
SNIP
SNIP
SOMEHOW, I'M BEING CARRIED AWAY

RATHER THAN CURIOSITY ...
...I WAS ACTUALLY FASCINATED WATCHING HIM.
THUMP
AND
THIS IS WHAT SUGIMOTO LOOKS LIKE WHEN HE'S WORKING.
THUMP
MAY I DRY YOUR HAIR?
KAZUHA-CHAN?
?
...IT'S NOTHING.
FOR A SECOND I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE TO LOOK.

I FELT LIKE I SAW A FACE I DIDN'T EXPECT
WOOOSH
IT'S A LOT DIFFERENT THAN USUAL
IS IT FUN? THIS JOB.
YES I BECAME A HAIR-DRESSER BECAUSE I LIKE IT.
I GUESS YOU'RE PERFECT FOR A JOB WHERE YOU HAVE TO BE GOOD WITH YOUR HANDS
HMMM.
NNN, I GUESS I'VE HAD A LOT OF PRAC-TICE.
I'VE BEEN AT IT FOR NINE YEARS NOW.
NINE YEARS ?!
YUP. I STARTED RIGHT AFTER MIDDLE SCHOOL
WHY DID YOU START SO EARLY?
I WAS TERRIBLE AT STUDYING WHEN I WAS A KID.
I LEARNED THROUGH A CORRE-SPONDENCE COURSE
HUH.
SO YOU HATED IT.
KEH HEH.
HOW RUDE! JAPANESE IS HARD, YOU KNOW!
GRRR
SO YOU DIDN'T LIKE JAPANESE CLASSES

SUGI-MOTO ...?
...I MIGHT BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND WHY MY MOTHER ... —SAID MY FATHER WAS SO WONDER-FUL
POP
ALSO, I THOUGHT THAT IF I BECAME A HAIR-DRESSER
GRIN
HEY, DOES THAT MEAN ...?
ANYWAY, I WAS INTER-ESTED IN THIS PROFES-SION.
MY DAD AND OLDEST BROTHER WERE BOTH HAIR-DRESSERS.
SO I SAW IT UP CLOSE WHEN THEY WERE USING THEIR HANDS SO SKILL-FULLY , AND I WAS REALLY IMPRESSED

TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I WAS RELATIVELY CLUMSY.
SHHHH
YOU'RE KIDDING !!
IT'S TRUE. SO IT WAS TERRIBLE WHEN I FIRST STARTED.

I DON'T WANT TO ADMIT IT, BUT I'VE GOTTEN A SLIGHTLY BETTER OPINION OF YOU.
OH, I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT.
COME NOW BE HONEST AND ADMIT IT
... MAY I TAKE THAT AS A COMPLIMENT?
I GUESS.

IT MUST HAVE BEEN REALLY HARD.
EH HEH HEH. WAIT, LITTLE RABBITS.
WELL, THE PLACE I WAS TRAINING WAS MY HOME, SO THERE WAS NOWHERE TO RUN TO

DANCING IN THE SHADOWS OF THE FOREST TREES.
BUT IN THE END, I DIDN'T QUIT BECAUSE I LIKED TALKING WITH MY CUSTOMERS
AND MORE THAN ANYTHING, I LOOKED FORWARD TO SEEING HOW THEIR APPEARANCES CHANGED
SHUKU

WHEN I WAS NEW, EVEN WHEN WORK WAS OVER, I HAD TO PRACTICE AND PRACTICE.
TO BE HONEST, IT WAS TORTURE IT'S PATHETIC ...
...BUT THERE WERE TIMES I WANTED TO RUN AWAY.

JUST LIKE THIS
F-WOOSH
WAH!
UH ... WAH
IT'S ALL GONE
WELL?
YOU'LL LOVE IT WHEN YOU'RE USED TO IT.
CHUCKLE
IT'S LIKE I'M ANOTHER PERSON
IT... IT'S SO DIF-FERENT

DON'T YOU THINK?
A BEAUTIFUL
OH, I KNEW IT.
BECAUSE THE LINES OF YOUR FACE ARE SO PRETTY.
FACE
AND TENDER EXPRESSION
?
YOU'RE MUCH MORE ATTRACTIVE THIS WAY.

I-I'M GOING HOME!
HUH?
WHA...?
I'LL DRIVE YOU.
NO THANKS. THE TRAIN'S FASTER
BLUSH
WHA...
WHA...
WHAT WAS THAT...?

I DON'T CARE EITHER WAY, BUT YOU'RE PUTTING SAUCE IN YOUR MISO SOUP?
WHERE'S EVERYONE?
THE RUNTS ARE ALL IN BED
EATING DINNER BY HERSELF
MO... MO-MOKA ?
STARE
EH ?!

GASP
ZUHA
KA-ZUHA!

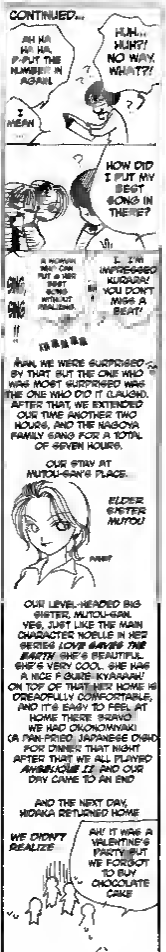
?!
WHAT WAS THAT ?!
EEEEK!
THE ROARING SOUND OF PANICKED THOUGHTS!!

MMM.
THAT'S RIGHT
IT'S NOT LIKE I DID ANYTHING, BUT I'M STILL EMBARRASSED
JUST REMEMBERING IT, I FEEL LIKE MY FACE IS ON FIRE
NO, NOTHING ...
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

NO, IT'S JUST THAT YOU'RE SO TALK-ATIVE TODAY
DID YOU MISS YOUR BIG SISTER?
NOT REALLY
WHAT ARE YOU SMILING ABOUT ?
MMM
THE AKIYOSHI MAMA IS A NURSE
YEAH AND MOM'S
WORKING THE NIGHT SHIFT IT'S ROUGH
I GUESS DAD'S WORKING OVERTIME AGAIN TONIGHT
CLINK
CLINK

NOW THEN, BETTER WASH THESE DISHES
KNOCK
THANKS FOR TAKING CARE OF THINGS WHILE I WAS GONE.
THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS THAT NOTHING HAPPENED TO THE RUNTS
AAAHH, NOT YOU, TOO!
BIG BRO-THER
SJUMP
KID-DING.
THAT HAIRSTYLE LOOKS *REALLY* GOOD ON YOU
BECAUSE YOU'RE MY BIG SISTER
THANKS.

GASP!
THE NEXT DAY (AT SCHOOL)
WOW
OH MY GOD!
KYAAA
KYAAA
THAT WAS A BOLD MOVE.
AND YOU LOOK SO COMPOSED
WOW
YEAH, WELL.
IS THAT STRANGE?
MUMUR
MUMUR
NO, IT'S NOT STRANGE
OH THAT'S GOOD, THEN.
BUT WHY ON EARTH...
TWITCH
OOOO OOH HO HO HO HO
OH?
SHE'S HERE.

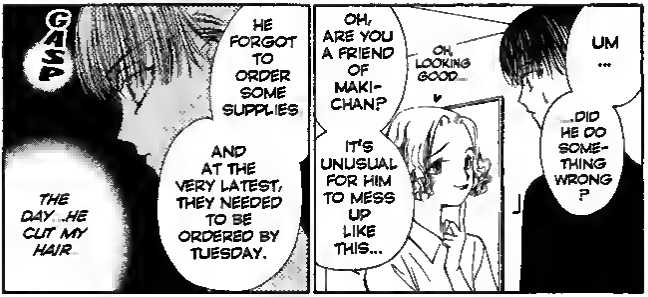

CONTINUED...
AH HA HA HA. I PUT THE NUMBER IN AGAIN. I MEAN...
HUH... HUH? NO WAY. WHAT?!
HOW DID I PUT MY BEST SONG IN THERE?
A WOMAN MAY CAN PUT A HER BEST SONG WITH NO REALIZING
I... I'M IMPRESSED KURAHA! YOU DON'T MISS A BEAT!
SING SING
HMM, WE WERE SURPRISED BY THAT BUT THE ONE WHO WAS MOST SURPRISED WAS THE ONE WHO DO IT (LAUGH). AFTER THAT WE EXTENDED OUR TIME ANOTHER TWO HOURS, AND THE NAGOYA FAMILY SANG FOR A TOTAL OF SEVEN HOURS.
OUR STAY AT MUTOU-SAN'S PLACE.
ELDER SISTER MUTOU
HAIR
OUR LEVEL-HEADED BIG SISTER, MUTOU-SAN. YES, JUST LIKE THE MAIN CHARACTER NOELLE IN HER SERIES LOVE AMONG THE EARTH. SHE'S BEAUTIFUL, SHE'S VERY COOL. SHE HAS A NICE FIGURE (KYARAAN!) ON TOP OF THAT, HER HOME IS CREADFULLY COMFORTABLE, AND IT'S EASY TO FEEL AT HOME THERE. BRAVO! WE HAD CHOKOMINAKI (A PAN-FRIED JAPANESE DISH) FOR DINNER THAT NIGHT. AFTER THAT WE ALL PLAYED ANIMAL-ESE AND OUR DAY CAME TO AN END.
AND THE NEXT DAY, HIDAKA RETURNED HOME.
WE DIDN'T REALIZE
AH! IT WAS A VALENTINE'S PARTY BUT WE FORGOT TO BUY CHOCOLATE CAKE
THAT'S US FOR YOU. BUT IT'S FINE AS LONG AS WE HAD FUN.
HOW TO PUT IT? YOU LOOK LIKE A YOUNG MAN?
NO, YOU ARE COMPLETELY BOYISH.
HEH HEH HEH. YOU'RE A MEDIOCRE ELF. I'M USING A CUTICLE COAT, AS USUAL.
OH MY GOODNESS. HERE I WAS WONDERING WHO IT WAS, AND IT WAS YOU, KAZUHA.
IT WAS THAT VERY SUGIMOTO-SAMA WHO CUT IT, SENKO-CHAN
MY... ♡
WHEN HE SEES YOU LIKE THIS, EVEN SUGIMOTO-SAMA WILL STOP ACTING NICE TO YOU.
HEH.
SIGH SHE'S GOTTEN DEFIANT.
ASAK-OOOOO, IF YOU WANT A PICTURE, NOW'S YOUR CHANCE.
SHE'S GOT A CRAZED LOOK IN HER EYE
GRRRR! LET GO OF ME! YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS!
HEH HEH
WHAT WAS THAT ?!
HUG!

BUT YOU ACTUALLY LOOK *MORE* FEMININE BECAUSE OF IT.
HE WAS THE ONE WHO WANTED TO MAKE YOUR HAIR SHORT, WASN'T HE?
YEAH MY NECK IS SO COLD I CAN'T STAND IT
GRRR
BUT I'M REALLY AMAZED WITH SUGI-MOTO-SAN.
WHY?
A ...
ASAKO
ASAKO, THAT'S AN OPTICAL ILLUSION
DAAAHH! I'LL DUNK YOU IN THE TOYO-GAWA WATER-WAY
HO HO HO
HEHEHE!
SETTING THAT ASIDE...
THERE'S NOTHING ON THE SIDES OF YOUR FACE, SO YOU CAN SEE YOUR FACIAL STRUCTURE MORE CLEARLY
I CAN REALLY TELL JUST HOW PRETTY YOU ARE.
COULD YOU TAKE BACK THAT LINE YOU JUST SAID.
THAT'S A SUPER LOCALIZED JOKE.

MY FACE GOES RED
BUT THE MORE I THINK IT DOESN'T LOOK WEIRD
...THE LESS I CAN BE MAD AT HIM
EVERY TIME I THINK ABOUT MY HAIR.
I'M MORTIFIED
WHAT?
AHP
WELL
I REMEMBER HOW SUGIMOTO'S HANDS FELT
I WAS TRICKED INTO GETTING MY HAIR CUT LIKE THIS
WHISPER
AND WHILE I'M BEING A BIG FAT MORON ...
...I THINK I SHOULD GO THANK HIM.
HE DID DO IT FOR FREE!
SO YOU ARE A CUTE GIRL.
I'D RATHER YOU CALL ME A BIG FAT MORON.
YOU ADORABLE THING
MY HEART

BETTER TO DO IT SOONER THAN LATER, RIGHT?
SATURDAY AFTER SCHOOL
SO ...
...THIS IS WHO ALL'S GOING.
OOO OHHH! HO HO HO HO
AS IF I WOULD LET YOU GO BY YOURSELF
OH, DON'T BE SO STIFF.
.....
WELL ALRIGHT.

YOU IDIOT!
JUMP
LA LA LA, BEYOND THE DOOR, LA LA LA
LYRICS AND MELODY BY SENKO MATSUOKA
SIGH
SUGIMOTO-SAMA, LOVE HUNTER SENKO HAS COME TO PIERCE YOUR HEART.
I'M GLAD SHE'S ENJOYING HERSELF
YEAH
HMMM
BUT ...
THANKING HIM'S GREAT, BUT WHAT EXACTLY SHOULD I SAY?
SENKO COMES HERE OFTEN.
OH, SENKO-CHAN, WELCOME. I'M SORRY ABOUT THIS. THEY'LL BE DONE SOON.
IS YUKI-SAN THE ONE YELLING?
THAT'S UNUSUAL.
IT JUST SO HAPPENED AT A TIME WHEN THERE AREN'T ANY CUSTOMERS, SO HE EXPLODED
WOW
HE HATES IT WHEN HIS EMPLOYEES AREN'T WITH IT.
HO HO HO
EH ...?
WHAT?
YOU FORGOT TO MAKE THE ORDER?
I'VE BEEN TELLING YOU FOR AGES THAT WE NEED IT TOMORROW.
...YES. I'M SORRY.
SUGIMOTO ?!
IS GETTING YELLED AT


CASA
THE DAY..HE CUT MY HAIR
HE FORGOT TO ORDER SOME SUPPLIES
AND AT THE VERY LATEST, THEY NEEDED TO BE ORDERED BY TUESDAY.
OH, ARE YOU A FRIEND OF MAKI-CHAN?
IT'S UNUSUAL FOR HIM TO MESS UP LIKE THIS...
OH, LOOKING GOOD...
UM ...
..DID HE DO SOME-THING WRONG ?

WELL, IT'S PARTIALLY MY FAULT FOR NOT CHECKING UP ON YOU
TRY NOT TO LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN.
UM... IT'S NOT HIS FAULT!

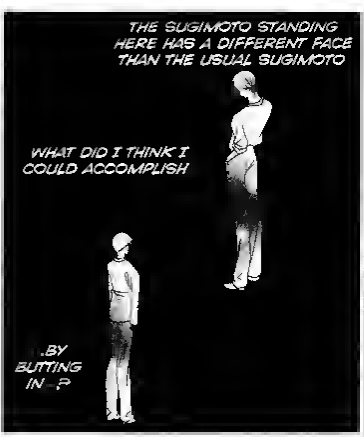
COULD IT BE HE DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO BE CUTTING MY HAIR ..?
THUD
NOT ONLY THAT SUNDAY, AND THAT SATURDAY ..
..HE SHOULD HAVE HAD WORK THOSE DAYS.
SIGH
AND YUKI-SAN IS USUALLY SO GENTLE ..
AFTER HE EXPLODES ONCE, IT'S LIKE NOTHING EVER HAPPENED

KAZUHA-CHAN..?
WHAT...
I... I'M THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS.
AM I SAYING..?
AND FOR SUGIMOTO TAKING TIME OFF WORK.
OH?
SUCH A PRETTY GIRL...
I INSISTED THAT HE GO OUT WITH ME.
I CAN'T...
...SAY IT VERY WELL.
AND SO
KAZUHA.
GASP

WHY DID YOU COME HERE?
BECAUSE
SUGIMOTO..?
FOR YOUR INFORMATION..

...THAT SUGIMOTO IS AN ADULT.
I HAD FOR-GOT-TEN
IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY ..
... BUSINESS HERE, GO HOME

...THIS IS MY MISTAKE
DON'T INTERFERE WHEN IT COMES TO MY WORK


THE SUGIMOTO STANDING HERE HAS A DIFFERENT FACE THAN THE USUAL SUGIMOTO
WHAT DID I THINK I COULD ACCOMPLISH
.BY BUTTING IN .?

I'M GOING HOME.
SLAM
KAZU-HA!
SUGI-MOTO-SAN.
WHY DO YOU THINK KAZUHA CAME HERE TODAY?
SHE CAME HERE TO SAY THANK YOU

I WAS JUST...
SHUT
TO YOU.
I'M PAINFULLY AWARE THAT I'M JUST A CHILD.
...AND CAN'T SEE WHAT'S AROUND ME.
I GET EMOTIONAL VERY QUICKLY, TOO...
WHEN SUGIMOTO SAID THAT TO ME...
...A FEELING THAT I CAN'T EXPRESS IN WORDS SWIRLED AROUND THE BACK OF MY THROAT.
DRIP
DRIP
...SO MORTIFIED.
WHAT IS THIS...?
ALL THAT CAME OUT...
... WERE TEARS.

世界でいちばん
大嫌い
I HATE YOU
more than anyone!

SUGI

ABOUT THE "HAIR" IN THIS BOOK...I OFTEN GET LETTERS ASKING, "WHY IS THERE SO LITTLE HAIR TIED BACK IN HIS PONYTAIL?" HERE'S THE ANSWER. IT'S NOT THAT HIS HAIR IS REALLY THIN AS YOU CAN SEE IN THE PICTURE BELOW, IT'S ALL PRETTY SHORT. (YOU CALL THIS SHORT?) NORMALLY, HE HOLDS IT IN PLACE WITH MOUSSE. DOES THAT MAKE SENSE? ALSO, ALL THE CHARACTERS I DRAW ARE TALL, BUT I REALLY LOVE THEM! TALL PEOPLE!! TEEHEE. MALE OR FEMALE, IT'S THE EASIEST TO DRAW CHARACTERS WITH EIGHT OR NINE HEAD PROPORTIONS (WHETHER THEY'RE DRAWN WELL IS ANOTHER QUESTION.) MAYBE SUGIMOTO IS THE TALLEST OF ALL THE CHARACTERS I'VE DRAWN UNTIL NOW? WELL, HE MAY BE THE TALLEST, BUT, IT'S ONLY ABOUT A HALF INCH TO AN INCH DIFFERENCE. CHIZURU IS 6'2" COME TO THINK OF IT, MY HOMEROOM TEACHER FROM FIRST AND THIRD YEARS OF MIDDLE SCHOOL WAS 6'2" HE TAUGHT ME ART. HE ALSO TAUGHT TRACK-AND-FIELD...THIS TEACHER OFTEN GOT YO-CHAN AND ME MIXED UP. I WENT TO HIS ART SHOW A YEAR AGO. WHEN I ASKED HIM, "SENSEI, DO YOU REMEMBER MY NAME?" HE SAID, "OH, IT WAS, OH, WHAT WAS IT AGAIN? TAKAHASHI!!" THAT'S NOT IT! KYAAAH! OGASAHARA-SENSEI, ARE YOU DOING WELL? (AH, YOU DON'T KNOW MY PEN NAME, DO YOU...?) WE DON'T EVEN LOOK ALIKE!

MAKI SUGIMOTO

BORN MAY 9,
TAURUS, BLOOD-TYPE O

HIS HEIGHT IS 6'2",
(4" TALLER THAN KAZUHA)

HE WEARS SUNGLASSES ALL DAY BECAUSE HIS EYES ARE SENSITIVE TO LIGHT (SOME PEOPLE ARE LIKE THAT.)

I HAVE A FRIEND LIKE THAT

COMPARED TO CHAPTER ONE, I GUESS HIS PERSONALITY HAS ROUNDED OUT A LOT MORE, OR IT'S THAT HE'S SO MADLY IN LOVE WITH KAZUHA, BUT HIS WILINESS HAS GONE OFF SOMEWHERE. WELL, LUMP IT ALL TOGETHER, AND THAT'S MAKI SUGIMOTO. I LIKE HIM.

BANRI HIDAKA,
1/27/1998

0-20 2020
PASS YOUR PAPERS ON WHAT YOU WANT TO DO AFTER HIGH SCHOOL TO THE BACK OF YOUR ROW.
WHERE IS YOUR PAPER? CHOICE
MMM. I CAN'T DECIDE.
THOSE WHO CAN'T TURN YOURS IN TODAY, TAKE IT TO THE FACULTY ROOM WITHIN THE NEXT TWO DAYS.
YES SIR!
KAZUHA, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO AFTER HIGH SCHOOL?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I HATE IT, I HATE IT I WANT TO KEEP HOLDING HANDS WITH PETER PAN!
WHEN- EVER THEY PASS THESE THINGS OUT, IT'S LIKE THE REAL WORLD IS RUSHING AT US.
AUGH!
I REALLY HATE IT.
HMMM.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTERS 4
(GREAT KING OF MISHEARING)

MISHEARING...I DO IT A LOT MYSELF. THE FOLLOWING LETTER IS FROM SOMEONE WHO HONORABLY MISHEARD "FOR THE SAKE OF ENDLESS LOVE" AND THOUGHT IT WAS...

"ON A JOURNEY OF LAUGHABLE LOVE" (IWATE PREFECTURE, K K -SAN)

AH HA HA HA HA. WHAT KIND OF STORY WOULD THAT BE?!

AND NEXT IS A LOVELY LETTER FROM SOMEONE WHO KINDLY POINTED OUT SOME MISTAKES OF MINE. (FROM NC UTA & NISAKETE)

"IN THE SIDEBAR ON PAGE 47 YOU DREW THE WRONG KANJI FOR ONI (DEMON) ON FRAME 6 OF PAGE 139, ERUKO (THE MAIN GIRL) HER NAME COULD ALSO BE [KIKO OR YORIKO] DOESN'T HAVE SOCKS ON THE SECOND FRAME OF PAGE 153. THE REVISED CHI IS WEARING AN EARRING ON HER LEFT EAR."

...SO, IT WOULD SEEM, IF YOU HAVE A COPY, GO AHEAD AND CHECK. AH HA HA. NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, DID YOU NOTICE THE THUMB ON CHI'S RIGHT HAND WHEN SHE CHANGES AFTER SHE AND TELLS AT TOHAMA, YOU'VE CHANGED TO ARI? IN CHAPTER TWO OF UTA 0-9? I FORGOT TO RETOUCH IT. AND IT'S SPLIT IN TWO.

I FOUND IT MYSELF AND WAS SAD. AHAHA...

CATCH ME IF YOU CAN!

OH NO NO. I AM THE UNDERSIDE MAN STANDING. I WILL ONLY TROUBLE ALL UNDER THE LOVERS MOVIE THAT I SEE.

ENTERTAINING BECAUSE, SOMEONE TOO THE PAINT TIME IN THREE 3 YEARS.

AH HA HA

BACHELOR!

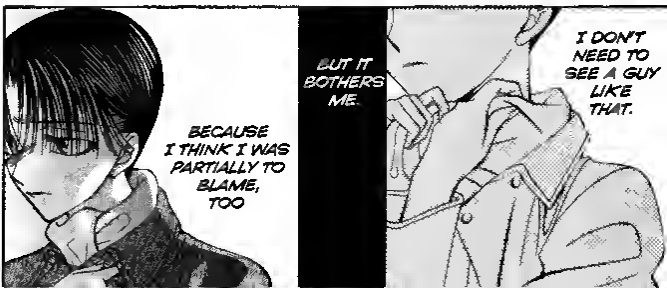
...AND SO, WELL... DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT TOO MUCH. ...OKAY?

SEEMS KIND OF A SHAME. YOU'RE SO SMART KAZUHA, I BET YOU COULD DO ANYTHING.
I'M AS SMART AS ANYBODY.
TO TELL THE TRUTH, I'D LIKE A JOB WHERE I CAN USE MY HANDS.
I WOULD NOT DO WELL IN AN OFFICE.
AH HA HA
SINCE THERE ARE STILL LITTLE KIDS ALL OVER THE PLACE AT MY HOUSE.
I'M SURE A LOT OF OUR FAMILY'S INCOME GOES TO FOOD.
MAYBE ... I'LL GET A JOB?
LIKE...
KAZUHA-CHAN
A JOB I CAN BE INTERESTED IN
SOMETHING WORTH DOING.
BUT, UMM ...
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING SPECIFIC IN MIND.
DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING IN MIND?
USE YOUR HANDS, HUH?

A HAIRDRESSER.
SORRY.
IT'S NOTHING.
KAZU-HA?
HAVE YOU SEEN...
...SUGIMOTO-SAN AT ALL SINCE THEN?

LAST WEEK AND THE WEEK BEFORE THAT.
AND...
...IT'S NOT THAT I WON'T SEE HIM--IT'S THAT I CAN'T.
...HE DIDN'T COME TO THE DAYCARE
HE'S NOT HERE TODAY EITHER, IS HE?
LET'S GO HOME.
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M MAD AT SUGIMOTO.

SO MIZUSHIMA-SENSEI TOLD ME.
I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM EITHER
IT SEEMS HE'S BEEN BUSY LATELY.


BECAUSE I THINK I WAS PARTIALLY TO BLAME, TOO
BUT IT BOTHERS ME.
I DON'T NEED TO SEE A GUY LIKE THAT.

I'M SCARED.
I'M SCARED.
...SUGIMOTO WAS MAD.
"THIS IS MY MISTAKE."
"DON'T INTERFERE WHEN IT COMES TO MY WORK."
STING
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I'D SEEN SUGIMOTO LIKE THAT.
AS THE DAYS PASS, I GET EVEN MORE SCARED OF HIM.
DEEP DOWN, I'M RELIEVED THAT I CAN'T SEE HIM

I WONDER WHAT HE THOUGHT THEN...
THAT'S HOW SCARED I AM TO SEE HIM.
KAZU-HA!
EH?
S... SENKO.
THUMP
AUGH ASAKO-SAN, YOU COULD HAVE TOLD ME SOONER.
THUMP
THUMP
GLARE
YOU'RE ABOUT TO STEP ON MATSU-OKA...
A KNEE TO THE BACK OF THE HEAD, HUH?
GAH!
WHA --?!
CHARGE CHARGE CHARGE
CALM DOWN, SENKO!
I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D BE SQUATTING THERE!
BASH
ANA WAWA WAWAH

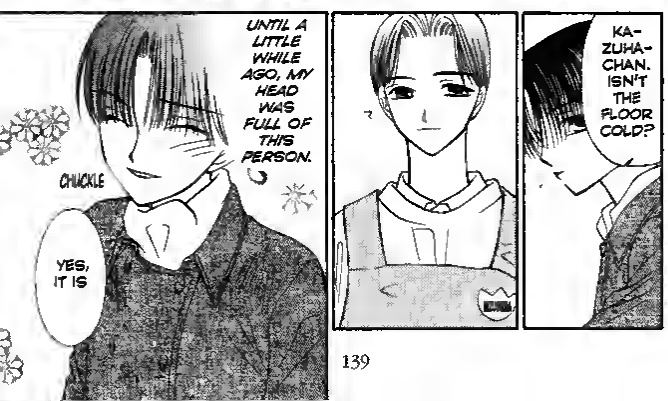
TODAY'S THE DAY YOU PICK UP THE LITTLE GUY, RIGHT?
STOP!
HMPH...
MY COUSINS HAD BABIES. KYO-CHAN'S BABY IS DAISUKE-KUN. HIRO-CHAN'S BABY IS SHOUTA-KUN. BABIES ARE SO TINY AND CUTE, AREN'T THEY? THEIR HUSBANDS WERE BOTH VERY HAPPY TO HAVE BOYS. BUT APPARENTLY MY OLDER COUSIN WANTED HER FIRST TO BE A GIRL. SO MUCH SO THAT, REGARDLESS OF BEING TOLD THERE WAS A 90% CHANCE OF IT BEING A BOY, HIRO-CHAN KEPT SAYING, "IT'S A GIRL, SEE? THERE'S A TEN PERCENT!"
HOW RUDE!
BUT COME ON. IF WE HAVE A BOY, AND THEN HE HAS A LITTLE SISTER, SHE WOULD GROW UP TO BE LIKE YOU, SO NO
HIRO-CHAN
KYO-CHAN
LET ME EXPLAIN. MY COUSINS ARE ALL IN FAMILIES OF TWO SIBLINGS. AND IT'S A PATTERN OF SISTER-SISTER, SISTER-BROTHER. MY FAMILY IS THE ONLY ONE THAT'S BROTHER-SISTER! AM I THAT STRANGE?
OH! I ALMOST FORGOT TO SAY! "CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR BABIES!"
(HIRO-CHAN AND ME)
WHEN I WENT TO VISIT (FEB. '98)
I'M ONLY 21!
SHOUTA-KUN, YOUR AUNT IS HERE!
HEH HEH HEH...
WAAH! YOU'RE MEAN!
COME TO THINK OF IT, I'VE BEEN TOLD THAT KYO-CHAN'S HUSBAND WAS THE WIMPIEST OF THREE BOYS. SO WHEN HE WAS A KID, HE GREW UP WEARING SKIRTS. BRAVO, BATTLE-KUN!!
UH... SURE... YEAH.
GULP
IN THAT CASE...
—GO ALREADY
HMPH
SHE'S BEEN ACTING WEIRD SINCE THEN, TOO.

GARAN
.....
...?
I FEEL LIKE I CAN'T BREATHE.
LILY
REI! SORRY I'M LATE!
NO ONE'S HERE.
THIS IS THE LILY CLASS, RIGHT?
MIZUSHIMA-SENSEI! I CAN'T FIND REI! AAUUGH!
OH, SORRY TO WORRY YOU REI-KUN IS...
WAS HE KIDNAPPED ?!
KAZU-HA-CHAN!
..OUR LITTLE BROTHER IS CUTER THAN MOST GIRLS!!
I DON'T WANT TO BRAG, BUT I'M
FAILURE AS A BIG SISTER
H...HUH? DID SOME-BODY ALREADY COME TO GET HIM?
MAYBE HE WANDERED OUTSIDE BY HIMSELF..
AND HE WOULD NOT GO OUT-SIDE BY HIM-SELF ...

...
RIGHT HERE ...
COME ON, REI! DON'T CLING TO HIM LIKE THAT!
I FEEL LIKE A GIGANTIC TURNIP
NGH NGH NGH
SEN-SEI CAN'T DO HIS JOB ...
REI?
WERE YOU CRYING?
KAZU-HA-CHAN!
THERE, THERE
.. UM, WHAT HAP-PENED ?
HE GOT IN A FIGHT WITH SATORU-KUN FROM OHTSUKA-SAN'S PLACE.
THEY ENDED UP NOT TALKING TO EACH OTHER UNTIL SATORU-KUN WENT HOME
GASP
A FIGHT
"FRIENDS" ...
THEY'RE FREINDS WITH EACH OTHER
SNIFFLE
SO THEY'LL PROBABLY BE BACK TO NORMAL IN NO TIME
I DON'T THINK I'M THAT CLOSE TO HIM.
BUT IT'S NERVE-WRACKING TO WATCH

HEY
WHAT AN UNSTABLE RELATION-SHIP.
DO YOU LIKE SATORU AND YUYORI AND TAKANE, REI?
BLUSH
YEAH
KIDS ARE SO HONEST.
I'M GETTING JEALOUS.
THEN YOU CAN...
...MAKE UP WITH HIM, CAN'T YOU?
AS YOU GROW UP, YOUR KNOWLEDGE GETS AHEAD OF YOU.
YEAH
AND YOU FREEZE UP.
AND YOU START TO THINK ABOUT WEIRD THINGS TOO MUCH.

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU SHOULD DO.
I MEAN, I THOUGHT I HATED HIM.
"KAZUHA-CHAN."
BUT ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT IS SUGI-MOTO.


KA-ZUHA-CHAN. ISN'T THE FLOOR COLD?
UNTIL A LITTLE WHILE AGO, MY HEAD WAS FULL OF THIS PERSON.
CHUCKLE
YES, IT IS

I WANT TO BE LIKE YOU, SENSEI.
ME?
YEAH BECAUSE YOU SEEM ... BIG-HEARTED, AND YOU'RE NICE, AND IT SEEMS LIKE NO ONE WOULD EVER FIGHT WITH YOU
COME ON, REI-KUN.
LILY
I'LL WALK YOU TO THE GATE.
MAKI, AND A FRIEND NAMED HONJOU.
WHO SAYS THAT?!
SHOCK
WE WERE A TOO OF TROUBLE-MAKERS.
REI IS DOWN HERE
REALLY? PEOPLE TELL ME THAT IT'S PEOPLE LIKE ME WHO ARE THE WORST
I'M NOT ATTACHED TO ANYTHING
YOU THINK SO? ACCORDING TO OTHER PEOPLE...
...I NEITHER FEAR WHAT APPROACHES NOR CHASE THAT WHICH LEAVES.
SUGIMOTO IS MUCH WORSE THAN YOU ARE.
GRRR

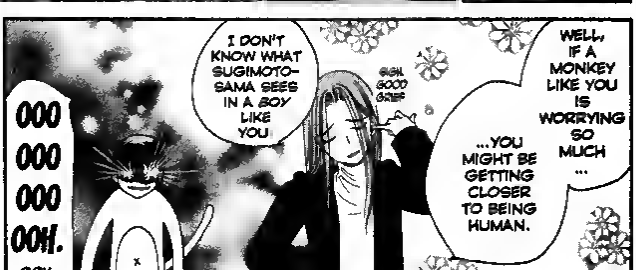
NO, I SHOULD NOT ASK!
I DON'T WANT TO ASK.
I CAN'T ASK HIM THAT.
TH... THEN WHAT ABOUT REBELLIOUS LITTLE BRATS?!
I THINK.
WITH MY OWN MOUTH.
AAAAUGH!
HE REALLY IS SUGIMOTO'S BEST FRIEND!
YIKES!
HELLO? I DON'T REALLY HATE KIDS.
BUT YOU KNOW
?
YEAH. THEY LIKE ME AND TALK TO ME, SO THEY'RE CUTE.
EH?! S...SUT, YOU LIKE KIDS, DON'T YOU?
I FOUND THE FIRST STAR
YOU DID BECOME A DAYCARE TEACHER.
ON THE OTHER HAND, IF MAK! LIKES SOMEONE OR SOMETHING.
HE REALLY CARES FOR IT.
HE'S AWKWARD, BUT YOU CAN TELL HE'S EARNEST.
HE ESPECIALLY CARES FOR YOU, KAZUHA-CHAN.
I COULD TELL RIGHT AWAY.
THAT..
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
EVEN NOW, WE'RE FIGHTING...
I MEAN, I MADE HIM MAD.

FIGHT-ING ...
OH?
I...I THINK THAT'S WHY ...
MAD? MAKI?
...HE STOPPED COMING HERE.
HE HASN'T SAID ANYTHING ABOUT THAT ON THE PHONE.
RATHER, MAKI IS THE ONE WHO SEEMS...
..COULD IT BE?
HE HATES ME?
STING
WHOOSH
WHACK

RIGID
KAZU-HA-CHAN, DOES YOUR FACE HURT?
ARE YOU OKAY?
SHUDDD
IT'S MY FACE THAT HURTS?
IT'S ... MY FACE NO ...
..FOR A SECOND, I FELT MY CHEST HURT, BUT ...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MAKING A FACE LIKE A CORPSE?
SENKO ...?
SO THIS IS ...?
THE STUDENT NOTEBOOK YOU DROPPED WHEN YOU TRIPPED OVER ME
OOOHH.
JUST LOOK AT THIS BUMP
SO YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE TO GIVE IT TO ME?
THAT'S RIGHT. YOU SHOULD THANK ME
HEH.
THAT'S NO REASON TO THROW IT AT ME!
OOF!
QUIET!
SLAP

LOOKING AT YOU MAKES ME REALLY SICK.
YOU REALLY ARE A BIG FAT MORON
STOP SPACING OUT!
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?!! MOPING AROUND ALL THIS TIME.
Y... YOU HIT ME?
YOU JUST HIT ME AS HARD AS YOU COULD?
I'M TELLING YOU TO STOP ...
...THINKING TOO HARD AND GO SEE HIM!
WHAT'S WITH YOU?
TAAAHH! YOU DIMWIT!
WHAM!
OKAY, TAKE CARE.
I MADE HER SICK, SO I'M GOING HOME.

WORRYING LIKE THAT. IT'S SO UNLIKE YOU. IT'S A WASTE OF TIME.
GO SEE HIM TOMORROW, AS SOON AS YOU CAN.
SENKO ...
STUPID.
STUPID.
IF ALL YOU DO IS WAIT ... NOTHING WILL COME OF IT.
HMPH!


OOO OOO OOO OOH.
OOK.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT SUGIMOTO-SAMA SEES IN A BOY LIKE YOU
SIGH. GOOD GRIEF.
WELL, IF A MONKEY LIKE YOU IS WORRYING SO MUCH ...
...YOU MIGHT BE GETTING CLOSER TO BEING HUMAN.

SENKO.
I'M SORRY.
THANK YOU.

THE NEXT EVENING.
LATER, SENKO.
I'M OFF.
MM.
WHAT CHANGE IN THE WIND IS THIS?
NOTH-ING
REALLY?
.....
IT'S JUST

I DON'T WANT TO SEE HIM LIKE THAT.
AFTER KAZUHA LEFT, SUGIMOTO-SAN ...
... LOOKED SO HURT.
YOU COULD NEVER BE A VILLAIN, COULD YOU?
LEAVE ME ALONE
THERE, THERE
MONOPOLY

CREAK
WELCOME!
ONE DAY I'LL BE ONE!!
EXCUSE ME
THUMP THUMP
THUMP
OH NO. I'M NERVOUS.
A WOMAN JUST STANDING IN FRONT OF THE SALON.
INSIDE HERE ARE KIND ANGELS, LOVELY SMILES, WONDERFUL HAIR-DRESSERS
SELF-HYPNOSIS
LOOK, YUKI-KUN.
IT'S THE GIRL THAT CAME THE OTHER DAY, THAT MAKI-CHAN LIKES SO MUCH.
UH...
UM...
INSIDE HERE ARE KIND ANGELS, LOVELY SMILES, WONDERFUL HAIRDRESSERS.
IT'S THE GUY WHO WAS YELLING LAST TIME!
EEEEEK!
GULP
STARE
OH, IT'S YOU.

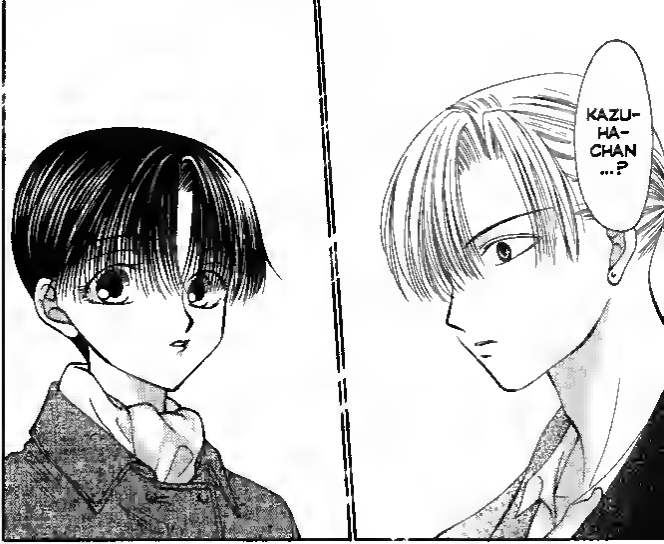
I CAN'T IMAGINE THAT HE'S THE SAME PERSON AS BEFORE
I'M SORRY. HE'S SUCH AN AIRHEAD!
FORGETTING PEOPLE'S FACES AGAIN!
WHO IS SHE AGAIN?
DAZED
HE'S ALWAYS LIKE THIS
TSK!
YES.
OH!
WHA--?!

...HE'S NOT HERE.
YOU JUST MISSED HIM. HE JUST WENT OUT ON AN ERRAND.
AH, YES.
DID YOU WANT TO SEE MAKI-CHAN?

...
AAAHH WHEN MAKI-CHAN FINDS OUT ...
...HE'LL BE SAD AGAIN.

NO, IT'S LATE.
I'LL GO HOME TODAY.
CREAK...
HE SHOULD BE BACK IN A BIT ...
...SO HAVE A SEAT AND WAIT.

WHOOSH
SOMEHOW...
...I'M DISAPPOINTED.
AND RELIEVED THAT I COULDN'T SEE HIM.
AH... OH NO.
WHENEVER I SEE SOMEONE WHOSE EYE LEVEL IS HIGHER THAN MINE...
I THINK THEY ALL LOOK LIKE HIM


KAZU-HA-CHAN ...?

SUGI MOTO
IT'S BEEN TWO, THREE WEEKS ...
... HASN'T IT?
UM ...
I'VE BEEN BUSY THESE DAYS
IT IS SUGIMOTO
HIS VOICE.
HIS SPEECH PATTERN...
IT'S BEEN SO LONG.
COULD IT BE...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

I THINK I'M GONNA CRY.
YOU CAME TO SEE ME?
HOLD ON! WAIT A SECOND!
UWAAHH, THIS IS TOO EMBARRASSING!
WHY THE HELL DID I COME?
SUBWAY
KAZU-HA-CHAN?
DON'T LOOK AT MEEEEEEEEEEE!
DASH

WHAM!
WHY DOES SOMETHING AS SMALL AS SEEING SUGIMOTO-
LET'S SEE, A TICKET COSTS
WHA--?!

MOVE PEOPLE ARE STARING
BUT YOU'LL RUN AWAY.
MAKE MY WHOLE BODY
I WON'T RUN AWAY, SO LET ME BUY MY TICKET

...START POUNDING.
CLING
LISTEN TO ME WHEN I TALK TO YOU.
IT'S GETTING WORSE.
SUGI-MOTO!
I THOUGHT
...YOU WOULD NEVER COME SEE ME AGAIN.
I'M SORRY.
WHAT I SAID BEFORE-- I JUST BLEW UP AND IT CAME OUT.
I REALLY, REALLY REGRET IT.
IT WAS TORTURE NOT BEING ABLE TO SEE YOU.

HEY! ARE YOU ...
EH?
WHAT ARE YOU CRYING FOR?

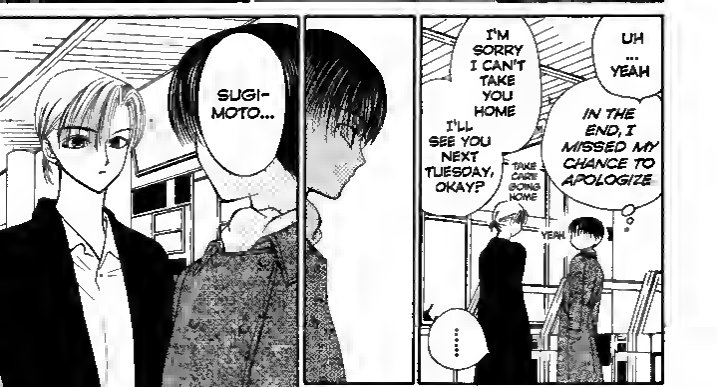
...SUGIMOTO, UM ...LOOK.
AUGH, DON'T YOU APOLOGIZE TO ME FIRST.
WHAT IS IT?

.....

AND HE SEEMED SO MUCH OLDER THE OTHER DAY.
IT'S LIKE I HAVE A BIG LITTLE BROTHER
WHINER
HE'S SUCH A BABY.

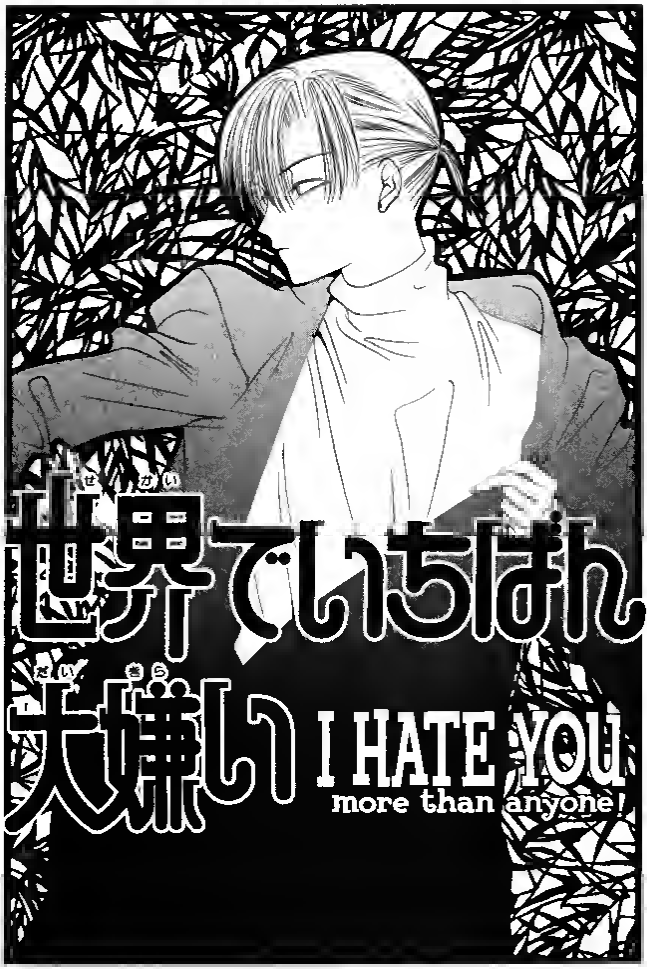
I WAS SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU...
...KAZUHA-CHAN I JUST ...
HANKIE, HANKIE
WHY ARE YOU SAYING STUPID STUFF LIKE THAT?!
BUT ..

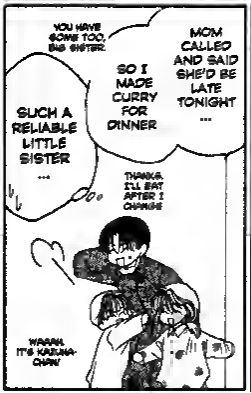
I'D SEEN ANOTHER SIDE OF SUGIMOTO.
AND I SMILED.
WELL THEN, IT'S BACK TO THE SALON FOR ME.
I FELT LIKE...
SIGH. I CAN'T GO BACK TO THE SALON LOOKING LIKE THIS.


SUGI-MOTO...
I'M SORRY I CAN'T TAKE YOU HOME
I'LL SEE YOU NEXT TUESDAY, OKAY?
TAKE CARE GOING HOME
YEAH
.....
UH ... YEAH
IN THE END, I MISSED MY CHANCE TO APOLOGIZE

OH, MAKI-CHAN. YOU HAVE A LOVELY EXPRES-SION TODAY.
MONOPOLY
CAN I SEE YOU WHEN YOU...
...GET OFF WORK TODAY?

HMM-HM
YES.
HMM-HM


世界でいちばん
大嫌い
I HATE YOU
more than anyone!


YOU HAVE GONE TOO, BIG SISTER.
SO I MADE CURRY FOR DINNER
MOM CALLED AND SAID SHE'D BE LATE TONIGHT ...
SUCH A RELIABLE LITTLE SISTER ...
THANKS, I'LL EAT AFTER I CHANGE
WAAHH, IT'S KAZUHA-CHAN!

WE PLAYED OUTSIDE TOGETHER UNTIL DARK.
HE WAS TIRED, SO HE'S ALREADY IN BED.
WELCOME BACK!
WELCOME BACK!
HUH? WHERE'S CHIBUSKE?
← SHE MEANS REI

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTERS & (OTHER QUESTIONS)

"WHO IS ICHINOSE TALKING TO ON THE PHONE IN 368 DAY LOVERS? (AKIYOSHI FAMILY SERIES I, ABOUT TOWARU.)"

MIMI, OF COURSE.

"IS THE GIRL WHO APPEARS ON FRAME 1 OF PAGE 49 OF "365 DAY LOVERS" THE MAIN CHARACTER KEI-CHAN FROM SUNNY PARADISE?"

B-BANG, YOU LOOK ALL SO CAREFULLY. THE UNIFORMS WERE ARE FROM WHEN I WENT TO HIGH SCHOOL. THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU WHO SENT PICTURES AND SAID, "IT LOOKS LIKE THE UNIFORM FROM XX HIGH SCHOOL." BUT IT'S NOT FROM THE EASTERN HIGH SCHOOL FROM O-ZAKI OR THE WESTERN HIGH SCHOOL FROM T-HARU, BUT FROM M SCHOOL AT H-TO.

(HOW ARE YOU DOING, MORITO AMANO-SENSEI?)

MY HOMEROOM TEACHER IN THIRD YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL

ONLY THE WINTER UNIFORMS

THEY REALLY LOOK ALIKE.

"IS THE MANGA ARTIST YOU (AND YOU REALLY LIKE IN YOUR DAILY HEAVEN) IN KIN-JIN YURI NARUHARA-SENSEI?"

TH...THAT'S RIGHT. I REALLY LOVE HER!! I WONDER IF IT'S OKAY FOR ME TO WRITE THAT IN A PLACE LIKE THIS. MY FAVORITE ARTISTS AT NANA TO YUME ARE NAOE KOTA-SENSEI, YUKIKO MATSUOKA-SENSEI, AND YOSHIKI NAKAMURA-SENSEI. OOOOOOOOH, I LOVE, LOVE, LOVE THEM!! (GASP) MY...WHAT...WILL I DO IF THEY FIND OUT ABOUT THIS?! ...ACK! BUT THERE ARE A LOT OF OTHER ARTISTS THAT I LIKE... BECAUSE I LOVE MANGA! SHHH, DON'T TELL ANYONE, "KAY?

"DO YOU HATE INKING PICTURES?"

I LOVE IT! IT JUST MAKES MY HAND HURT LIKE CRAZY. I HOLD THE PEN REALLY TIGHTLY SO THE CALLUS ON MY MIDDLE FINGER REALLY HURTS.

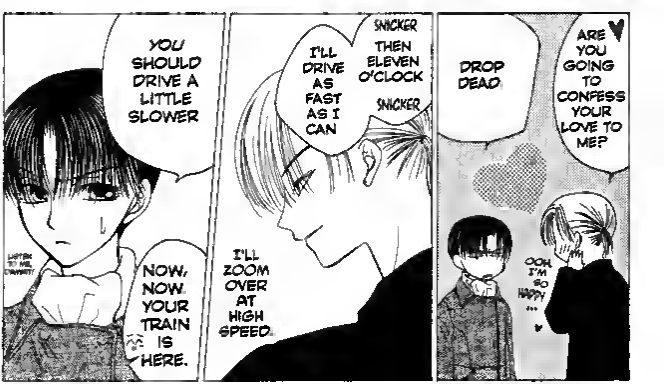
—OH, NO! THE QUESTION CORNER ARE ENDED.

CHIBITA! I CAN'T CLIMB THE STAIRS WITH YOU CLINGING TO ME!
NO!
KAZU-HA ...
YOUR FACE IS RED. DO YOU HAVE A FEVER OR SOMETHING?
EH?
IT'S NO-THING.
YOU TWO JUST GET TO SLEEP!
YES MA'AM!
IN FRONT OF THEIR ROOM
THEY SLIDE DOWN THE HALL PRETTY WELL.
WHOOSH
'NIGHT!
BIG BROTHER'S ACTING WEIRD!
SLAM
MY FACE
IS RED?
TS... U... .... WAH
SLIDE SLIDE SLIDE
FOR SOME REASON ...
...I'M SUPER EMBAR-RASSED.

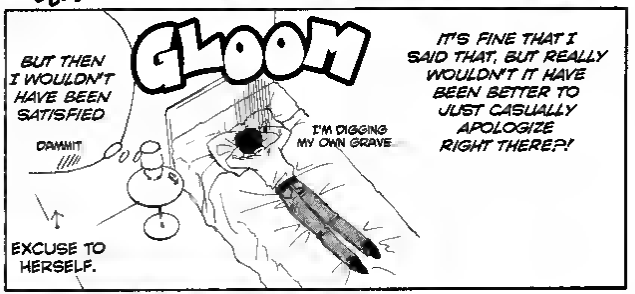
I'M SO EMBARRASSED ABOUT WHAT I SAID, I CAN'T BELIEVE I SAID IT.
"CAN I SEE YOU WHEN YOU GET OFF WORK TODAY?"
EH?
GOING HAPPY
...
WHY?!
TURN
SHOCK
ON SECOND THOUGHT, FORGET IT
WHY...?
WHY? WHY?
I CAN'T HELP IT. I AM HAPPY.
DON'T LOOK SO OBVIOUSLY HAPPY, DAMMIT.
YOU'RE EMBARRASSING ME

I DON'T WANT TO LET GO!
OOOO OOOHHH! YOU REALLY ARE ADORABLE IN PERSON!
KAZUHA IN PERSON! KAZUHA IN PERSON!
STOP SAYING "IN PERSON" OVER AND OVER.
SNUGGLE SNUGGLE
WHEN DO YOU GET OFF WORK?
NOT TELLING ♡
SPIN
I'M NOT HAPPY
BUT IF IT'S NOT TOO MUCH TROUBLE TO COME TO MY SIDE OF TOWN... THAT IS.
WHA ---?
WELL, IT'S SO LATE AT NIGHT.
YOU'D BE WALKING AROUND OUTSIDE THAT'S DANGER-OUS.
IT'S DAN-GER-OUS FOR YOU!
I'M WELL AWARE OF THAT.
HOW RUDE! ◆I'M A GENTLEMEN
MEETING YOU IS?
FOR A SECOND
SWOOSH
YOUR WORDS ARE ENOUGH

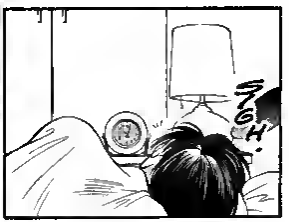
...I COULD SENSE THE LIGHT GO OUT OF HIS FACE.
IT'S OKAY.
SEE YOU LATER
IT'S OKAY IF IT'S LATE
I HAVE A LOT... I WANT TO SAY TO YOU
THE PARK NEXT TO THE DAYCARE IS CLOSE TO MY HOUSE ...
...KAZU-HA-CHAN.


ARE YOU GOING TO CONFESS YOUR LOVE TO ME?
DROP DEAD
OOH I'M SO HAPPY ...
SNICKER
THEN ELEVEN O'CLOCK
SNICKER
I'LL DRIVE AS FAST AS I CAN
I'LL ZOOM OVER AT HIGH SPEED.
YOU SHOULD DRIVE A LITTLE SLOWER
LISTEN TO ME, DAMMIT!
NOW, NOW. YOUR TRAIN IS HERE.

DON'T BE LATE.
SUGI-MOTO!
ASSERTIVE


GLOOM
BUT THEN I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SATISFIED
DAMMIT
EXCUSE TO HERSELF.
I'M DIGGING MY OWN GRAVE
IT'S FINE THAT I SAID THAT, BUT REALLY WOULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN BETTER TO JUST CASUALLY APOLOGIZE RIGHT THERE?!

ALREADY TEN O'CLOCK ...

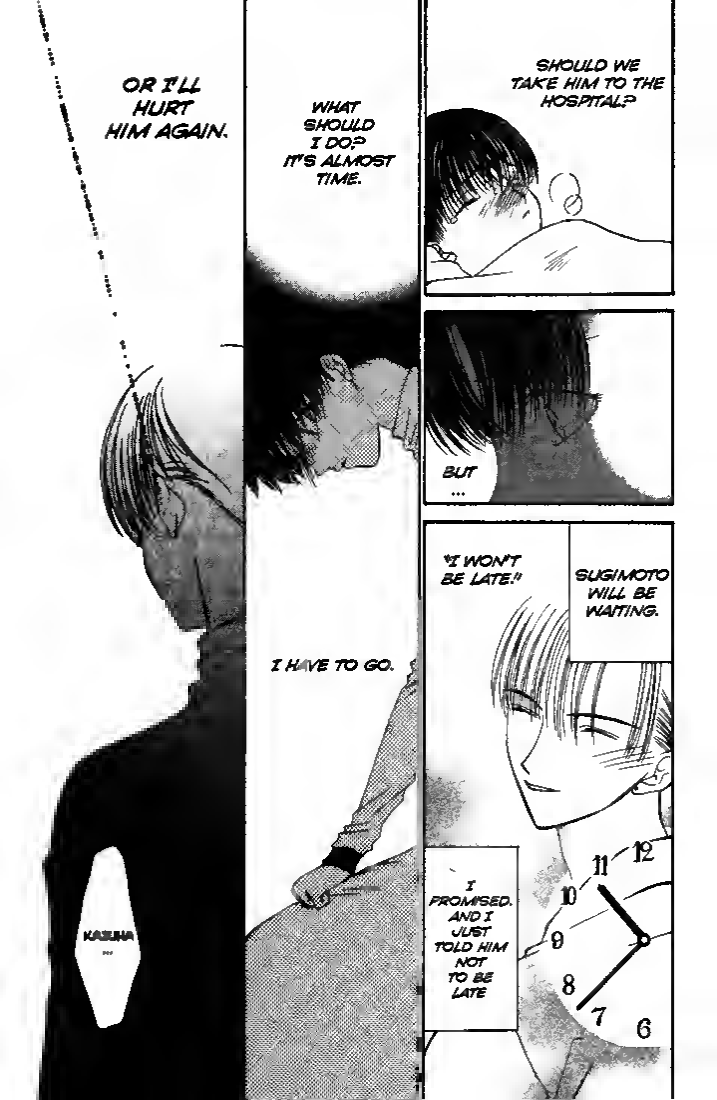

SIGH

ONE MORE HOUR.
FIRST I'LL APOLOGIZE FOR INTERFERING WITH HIS WORK.
WHAT WILL I SAY ?
BUT...
OH YEAH I WAS SUPPOSED TO THANK HIM FOR CUTTING MY HAIR. I GUESS IT'S LATE FOR THAT.
"I WON'T BE LATE!"
I'M GLAD HE WASN'T ANGRY.

CHUCKLE. I SAW HIM CRYING.
WELL...
OH, WELL.
I'M GLAD...
MAYBE I AM TOO NICE TO SUGIMOTO, AFTER ALL.
AW, MAN.
RISE
IT'S NOT GOOD!
I REALLY DID GET EMBARRASSED.
POUND POUND POUND
IT'S REI!
REI!
TO-NAMI!
CRAK
KAZU-HA, WHAT DO WE DO?

REI THREW UP?
COUGH
A FEVER... IT'S HIGH. I HOPE IT'S JUST A COLD.
REI-CHAN CALLED, SO I THOUGHT HE NEEDED TO GO TO THE BATH-ROOM ...
... AND THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN ...

WHAT DO WE DO? IS IT BECAUSE WE WERE PLAYING OUTSIDE FOR SO LONG? OR WAS SOMETHING WRONG WITH THE DINNER I MADE?
TO-NAMI ...
EITHER WAY, I COULDN'T TELL ANYTHING WAS WRONG!
IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT. YOU'RE TAKING BETTER CARE OF THE RUNTS THAN ANYONE, TONAMI.
BIG SISTER ...
WHAT'LL WE DO? SHOULD WE WAIT FOR MOM TO GET HOME?
BUT WE DON'T KNOW WHEN THAT WILL BE.
AND DAD'S WORKING LATE, TOO, SO WE CAN'T COUNT ON HIM.


SHOULD WE TAKE HIM TO THE HOSPITAL?
BUT ...
"I WON'T BE LATE."
SUGIMOTO WILL BE WAITING.
I PROMISED. AND I JUST TOLD HIM NOT TO BE LATE
WHAT SHOULD I DO? IT'S ALMOST TIME.
I HAVE TO GO.
OR I'LL HURT HIM AGAIN.
KAJUNA ...

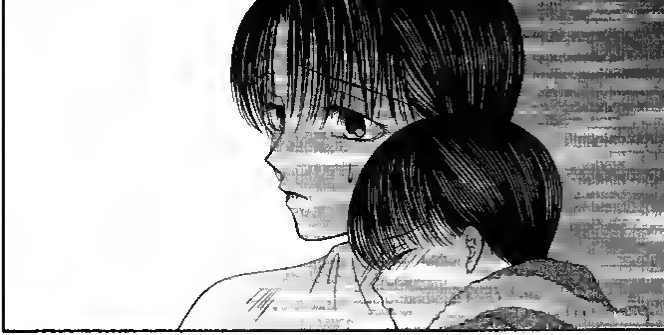
KYU
HIC
HIC
COUGH COUGH
I HAVE TO BE STRONG.
BECAUSE I'M THE BIG SISTER.

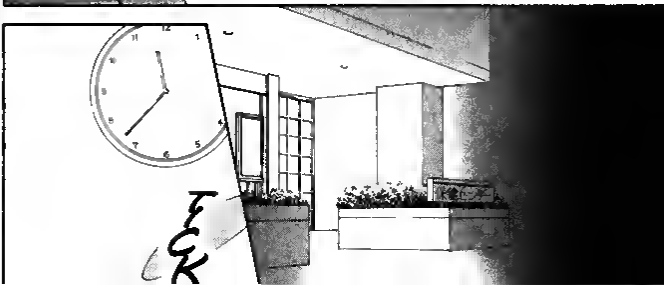
KAZUHA, WILL THIS TOWEL DO?
OH, THANKS, MOMOKA.
WHERE'S CHIZURU?
O... OKAY.
TONAMI, BRING REI'S COAT HERE
AND THE INSURANCE CARD.
HE LEFT THIS EVENING AND HASN'T COME BACK YET.
I SEE
THEN MOMO-KA ...

KAZU-HA?
DON'T WORRY
KAZUHA, HERE THEY ARE.
IT'S OKAY.
TAKE CARE OF TONAMI AND ICHIHISA UNTIL MOM OR DAD GETS HOME.
I'M TAKING REI TO THE HOSPITAL

REI LOOKS LIKE HE'S IN PAIN
WILL HE BE OKAY ...?
THANKS, TONAMI.
I'M GOING TO CALL A TAXI, SO KEEP AN EYE ON REI.
ACT.
SO YOU GO TO BED BEFORE YOU CATCH A COLD, TOO.
BUT ...
YOUR BIG SISTER WILL TAKE CARE OF REI.

IT'S OKAY.
HM?
HAS YOUR BIG SISTER EVER LIED TO YOU?
...NOPE, NEVER.
TICK...
TOCK..
10
9
P+C
I PROMISE
I'M SORRY.. SUGIMOTO.
I COULDN'T KEEP MY PROMISE.
STING
EXCUSE ME, PLEASE TAKE US TO NIGHT CLINIC.
HIS FEVER... IS 101?.. HE MUST FEEL TERRIBLE.
cough cough




EEK

IT'S ALREADY TIME.
I WONDER
AKIYOSHI-SAN, PLEASE COME IN.
AH! YES.
CRUNCH
...IF HE'S WAITING.

OR
I'M HOME.
MOM.
I'M SORRY.
I'M SORRY I'M LATE.
HOW IS REI DOING?
THEY SAY IT'S THE FLU.
WE HAVE TO TAKE HIM BACK TO THE HOSPITAL TOMORROW.
AKIYOSHI MAMA
HUG
SHE'S SO VERY SMALL
EVERY TIME I SEE HER SHE'S SO SMALL. I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE'S MY MOM.
THE FLU?!
KAZUHA-CHAN!
IT'S GOING AROUND.
I'M A FAILURE AS A MOTHER.
AND A FAILURE AS A NURSE.
THAT'S NOT TRUE.

NOW THEN, THANK YOU FOR STICKING WITH ME TO THE END.

<THIS VOLUME'S SPECIAL THANKS!>

- SUGINO-SAN
- KURARA-CHAN
- SUNACHO
- JUN-CHAN
- TACHIBANA
- HIGUCHI-SAN
- SAIGA-SAN
- OSAKANA-CHAN
- MOM
- YOU-CHAN

THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, EVERYONE

AND ALL THE READERS WHO READ THIS BOOK. THANK YOU VERY MUCH! I'M WAITING TO HEAR WHAT YOU THINK. EHEH!

BANRI HIDAKA
C/O CMX
888 PROSPECT STREET
SUITE 240
LA JOLLA, CA 92037

I LIKE FAXES SOMETIMES I GET THEM FROM MY NORMAL PEOPLE FRIENDS

<KU AND RYU-KUN AND ME>

THEY'RE LOVEY-DOVEY AS USUAL.
AAAH! IT'S FROM ITO AND RYU-KUN!
BUN BUN BUN
BUN BUN BUN BUN
BUN BUN BUN
YOU'RE STILL GOING?
BUN
NOTE: MINE HAS AN AUTO-CUTTER, BUT FOR A FAX THAT'S ALMOST THREE FEET LONG AND THE WRITING IS HUGE. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR FAXES AND POSTCARDS EVERYONE. GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR WORK!

DADDY! REI IS OKAY!
NOW, NOW YOU HAVE SCHOOL TOMOR-ROW, DON'T YOU?
IT'S ALREADY 12:30 OFF TO BED WITH YOU
THUMP
HEH HEH HEH IT'S LIKE YOUR MOTHER ISN'T EVEN THERE.
CAR PAR PAR
MOM ...
THAT'S NOT QUITE RIGHT!
MY CLUMSY DAUGHTER IS MY STRENGTH.
MOM.

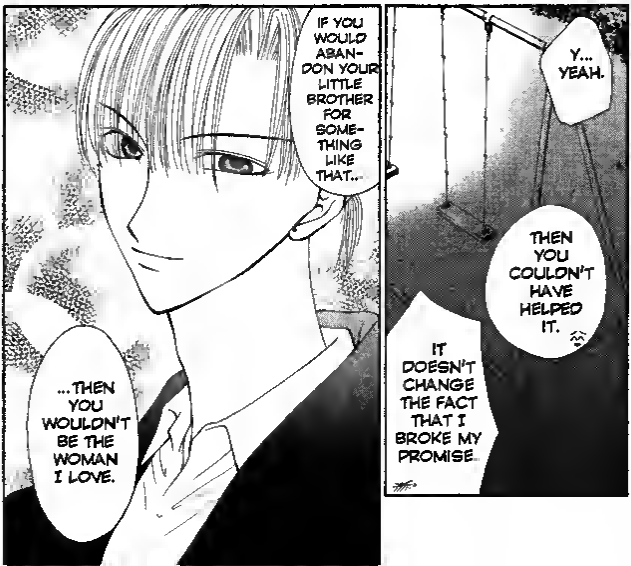
I'M SURE HE'S LEFT BY NOW.
I MEAN, IT'S BEEN OVER AN HOUR.
THERE'S NO WAY HE WOULD HAVE WAITED THAT LONG.
BUT...
...BUT WHAT IF HE IS WAITING...?
MOM.
I'M SORRY
EH?

I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
KAZUHA ?!
BAM
WHAT IF HE IS?
I HAVE NO REASON TO THINK SO.
BUT I FEEL LIKE HE'S WAITING
I'M SURE.
BECAUSE HE'S JUST THAT KIND OF GUY.
BECAUSE IT'S SUGIMOTO.

YOU'RE LATE.
.....
WHA--? WHY ARE YOU HERE?
GOOD-NESS, IS THAT THE FIRST THING YOU SAY TO SOMEONE YOU'VE KEPT WAITING?
DUCK
WELL ...

I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D BE WAITING IN THIS COLD.
WELL, I DID. THAT'S WHY I CAME, BUT...
...BUT NO NORMAL PERSON WOULD HAVE.
WHY DID YOU ...?
BECAUSE YOU TOLD ME TO WAIT, KAZUHA-CHAN.
I WOULD WAIT FOREVER.
I WILL KEEP WAITING UNTIL YOU COME, KAZUHA-CHAN.
BECAUSE YOU'VE NEVER BROKEN A PROMISE. NOT ONCE.
THAT'S NOT TRUE! I'M LATE RIGHT NOW, AREN'T I?
BUT YOU CAME.
THAT'S ENOUGH.

IDIOT! WHAT IF YOU CAUGHT COLD?!
COME ON, STAND UP!
UGH!
I JUST TOOK REI TO THE HOSPITAL!
THE FLU IS GOING AROUND!
UUUNGH, SHE'S MAD.
MY, IS THAT WHY YOU WERE LATE?


IF YOU WOULD ABANDON YOUR LITTLE BROTHER FOR SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
...THEN YOU WOULDN'T BE THE WOMAN I LOVE.
Y... YEAH.
THEN YOU COULDN'T HAVE HELPED IT.
IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT I BROKE MY PROMISE.

I CAN'T REALLY EXPLAIN IT...
I REALLY HATE THAT ABOUT YOU.
...BUT I'M SORRY.
BUT I'M SORRY FOR EVERY-THING I'VE DONE UP TO NOW.
I'M SORRY I KEPT YOU WAITING.
SAY, KAZU-HA-CHAN ...

MAY I HUG YOU?
THUMP
THUMP
WHA?!
YOU'RE SO WARM
WHY YOU...
THEN I'LL GO AHEAD...
MMMCCCCK!
GOODNESS, YOU MAKE ME SOUND LIKE A PERVERT
WHAT ARE YOU ASKING NOW FOR? YOU'RE ALWAYS TOUCHING PEOPLE ALL OVER THE PLACE WITHOUT THEIR PERMISSION
UWAH! I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS GUY! SO EMBARRASSING

HE'S WARM.

MY WHOLE LIFE IS POUNDING LIKE PULSING VEINS.
SO WHY IS IT THAT I FEEL SO AT EASE?
DON'T SAY THINGS THAT MIZUSHIMA SENSEI SAYS
CUT IT OUT!
WE CAN'T LET A GIRL GET TOO COLD, NOW, CAN WE?
COME TO THINK OF IT, KAZUHA-CHAN, AREN'T YOU COLD IN SUCH LIGHT CLOTHES?
OH, I WAS IN A HURRY AND FORGOT MY COAT.
MUTTER MUTTER
NOTHING, AT ANY RATE ...
...I DON'T WALK AROUND CARRYING EVEN ONE GLOVE
ANYWAY,
WHY ARE YOU MAKING THAT WEIRD FACE?
SULK
ARE YOU SULKING?
AND BEING SARCASTIC.
MIZUSHIMA?

I AM SULKING!
GRAB
MMPH!
WAH!
I'M FINE!
I HAVE A CAR.
I'LL BE FINE GOING HOME.
BUT ...
DON'T YOU MEAN BIG SISTER?
YOU'RE FORCEFUL AS EVER.
MY AREN'T WE RUDE?
IDIOT
YOU REALLY ARE BAD AT ACCEPTING OTHERS' KINDNESS, AREN'T YOU?
BE A GOOD GIRL AND DO WHAT BIG BROTHER TELLS YOU

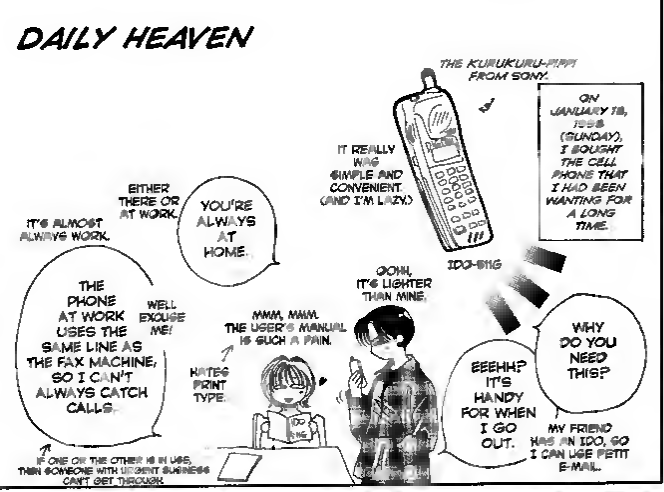
WARM.

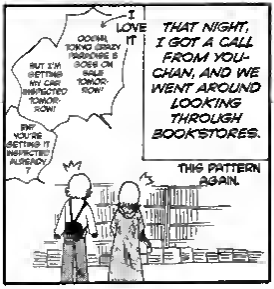
THANK YOU.

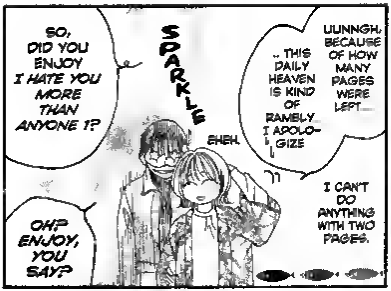
AH! CRAP! I HAVE TO GET HOME
OOOHH, I'M SORRY, KAZUHA-CHAN
AH?
KU
I DON'T THINK I CAN BE A GENTLEMEN.

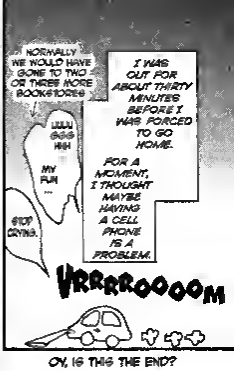
I HATE YOU MORE THAN ANYONE 1/THE END

DAILY HEAVEN


THE KURUKURU-PITPI FROM SONY.
ON JANUARY 7TH, 19XX (SUNDAY), I BOUGHT THE CELL PHONE THAT I HAD BEEN WANTING FOR A LONG TIME.
IT REALLY WAS SIMPLE AND CONVENIENT. (AND I'M LAZY.)
IDO-BIIG
EITHER THERE OR AT WORK.
YOU'RE ALWAYS AT HOME.
IT'S ALMOST ALWAYS WORK.
THE PHONE AT WORK USES THE SAME LINE AS THE FAX MACHINE, SO I CAN'T ALWAYS CATCH CALLS.
WELL EXCUSE ME!
IF ONE ON THE OTHER IS IN USE, THEN SOMEBODY WITH URGENT BUSINESS CAN'T GET THROUGH.
MMM, MMM. THE USER'S MANUAL IS SUCH A PAIN.
HATES PRINT TYPE.
OOHH, IT'S LIGHTER THAN MINE.
WHY DO YOU NEED THIS?
EEEHH? IT'S HANDY FOR WHEN I GO OUT.
MY FRIEND HAS AN IDO, SO I CAN USE PETIT E-MAIL.


I LOVE IT
OOOH, TOKYO DISNEY TRANSIT'S GOING ON SALE TOMORROW!
BUT I'M GETTING MY CAR INSPECTED TOMORROW!
PAT, YOU'RE GETTING IT INSPECTED ALREADY
THAT NIGHT, I GOT A CALL FROM YOU-CHAN, AND WE WENT AROUND LOOKING THROUGH BOOKSTORES.
THIS PATTERN AGAIN.


SO, DID YOU ENJOY I HATE YOU MORE THAN ANYONE !?
SPARKLE
EHEH.
.. THIS DAILY HEAVEN IS KIND OF RAMBLY I APOLOGIZE
UUNNGH, BECAUSE OF HOW MANY PAGES WERE LEFT...
I CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITH TWO PAGES.
OHP. ENJOY, YOU SAY?


NORMALLY WE WOULD HAVE GONE TO TWO OR THREE MORE BOOKSTORES
I WAS OUT FOR ABOUT THIRTY MINUTES BEFORE I WAS FORCED TO GO HOME.
LULU GOES HIGH
MY FUN ...
FOR A MOMENT, I THOUGHT MAYBE HAVING A CELL PHONE IS A PROBLEM.
STOP CRYING.
VRRRROOOOM
OY, IS THIS THE END?

KYAA, AAAH
COME TO THINK OF IT, THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT, GUSHMOTO
KA-ZUHA-CHAN, CALM DOWN!
DAMMIT, WHEN DOES VOLUME 2 COME OUT?!
AND SO, KAZUHA-CHAN'S HARDSHIPS WILL CONTINUE FOR QUITE A WHILE
KYA!
GORRAAAAN! STAND UP! STAND UP!
KEH.

RE, SENIOR IN PRESCHOOL KOHAKU, FIRST GRADE

LOOK FORWARD TO VOLUME 2!
THANKS EVERYONE WHO SENT ME CHOCOLATE THIS YEAR. I LOVED IT.
OH, CHI, YOU'RE HEAVY
AND ABOUT THE ANTICIPATED VOLUME 2...
..THERE WILL BE A NEW CHARACTER, AND THINGS WILL BE EVEN MORE UPROARIOUS.
PLEASE LOOK FORWARD TO IT!
*THANK YOU EVERYONE WHO SENT ME CHOCOLATE EVEN MY BROTHER GOT SOME

BANRI HIDAKA'S DAILY HEAVEN/THE END